







## Newspaper demanded kiss outside Dorchester as evidence of affair

## Chief of defence's mistress sold her story for £175,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE former Lady Buck, who sold details of her affair with the Chief of Defence Staff to the *News of the World* for £175,000, has gone into hiding in the Far East with representatives of the paper.

Bienvenida Sokolow will return to London next week for a series of lucrative television and magazine interviews after the *News of the World* publishes its second instalment about her relationship with Sir Peter Harding, who resigned his £112,000-a-year post on Sunday. Sir Peter, who has four children, has been married for 39 years.

Max Clifford, the public relations adviser who represented Antonio de Sancha, the former mistress of David Mellor, has already earned £35,000 from the downfall of Sir Peter. He also acted as an agent for Bryce Taylor, the man who used a hidden camera to take photographs of the Princess of Wales working out in a London gymnasium.

Mr Clifford, who takes a 20 per cent fee, sold the story to the *News of the World* two weeks ago, after being approached by Mrs Sokolow, who has been married to an art consultant since her divorce from Sir Antony Buck in September. Mr Clifford made it clear before he approached the newspaper that Mrs Sokolow would have to agree to the publication of love letters from Sir Peter to give the newspaper the concrete evidence of the affair it required.

After talking to Phil Hall, deputy editor of the *News of the World*, it was agreed that the paper needed photographs of the couple together to illustrate how cavalier Sir Peter had become about his personal security arrangements. No such photographs existed.

## The wife who loved to be in limelight

WHILE some MPs' wives shun the Palace of Westminster, Bienvenida Sokolow, the former Lady Buck, loved the place (Andrew Pierce writes). She was a striking figure at Westminster receptions where she indulged her taste for flamboyant clothes. She was also a popular figure in the Colchester North constituency when Sir Antony was the MP, organising many fundraising events.

The couple could easily have passed for father and daughter, or even grandfather and granddaughter.

The Spanish-born secretary claims to be 32, but Sir Antony, 65, who married her after a three-week courtship, says she is at least 36. Her marriage certificate gives her age as 33 on March 22, 1990.

Little is known about her background. When she married Sir Antony she claimed to be the daughter of a well-known Valencia lawyer, Francisco Perez, but the College of Lawyers there had no record of him.

When challenged, she insisted it was because he had died some 20 years earlier. She said her mother left him

suggested that Mrs Sokolow arrange lunch with Sir Peter, even though their affair had been over for months, at the Dorchester last week so that they could be photographed together. Mr Clifford advised her to agree.

When Sir Peter arrived at the hotel in his official limousine he had no idea that a



The Judas kiss on the steps of the Dorchester

reporter was lying in wait with a tape recorder at the next table and that a photographer with a zoom lens was outside. As he left the hotel he kissed Mrs Sokolow, as she had arranged with the newspaper, and the photographer captured the kiss.

Mr Clifford said: "They had to have proof because of the

security implications." But it was the publication of the letters that was most damaging to the reputation of Sir Peter, aide-de-camp to the Queen. In one letter sent on November 20, 1991, soon after the romance had begun, he wrote: "My darling, my little one, my love. Nothing has ever happened to me like this. I love you to distraction. I find you utterly captivating, enchanting, intelligent, practical, determined, overwhelmingly beautiful and desirable."

Your mind is agile, deep and challenging. Your body is incomparable and your face utterly beautiful. You move like a gazelle, dress like a queen, and have impeccable taste." At the end of the letter the man who had masterminded RAF combat operations in the Gulf war added a heart with an arrow through it.

This weekend's revelations will centre on Mrs Sokolow's short-lived marriage to Sir Antony Buck, 65, the former defence minister who retired as an MP at the last election. The couple were married in 1990 and divorced in September last year, when she married Nicholas Sokolow, 32, an art investment consultant.

Mr Sokolow, who is of Russian descent, is a partner in his own company and used to work for Christie's. He has joined his wife at her Pacific hideaway with representatives of the *News of the World*.

Mr Clifford says that money was not Mrs Sokolow's only motive for selling her story. She feared that Sir Antony was preparing to publish his version of the failed marriage, he said. Security had partly motivated her as well. "She was very frightened. I believe she had no choice but to do it."

She approached Mr Clifford more than two months ago and rang twice without leaving her name. On the



Bienvenida Sokolow has gone into hiding to prepare more details of her affair

third occasion she left a message with his personal assistant saying that Lady Buck had telephoned. The name meant nothing to Mr Clifford.

The fourth time she rang, she talked to Mr Clifford and identified herself. He told her to think through the consequences. A week later, she rang again and arranged to meet him. Mr Clifford agreed to act for her and the interview with the *News of the World* took place in his offices in New Bond Street.

Mr Clifford has a flair for

publicity and kept Ms de Sancha in the headlines for weeks after the disclosure of her affair with Mr Mellor. It was only in the last few weeks, in a magazine interview, that she admitted much of the detail had been made up, including allegations about toe-sucking and about Mr Mellor wearing his Chelsea football kit in bed.

Mr Clifford, when asked if he had a hand in the fiction, merely laughed.

Libby Purves, page 18  
Peter Brookes, page 20



Clifford: 20 per cent cut earned him £35,000

## 'You are all in a woman that I love and hope for'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

SIR Peter Harding poured out his feelings for his young lover in a series of intimate handwritten letters which were posted from boxes in south and west London. They were written by hand and many extended to several pages.

They were stored away so that her husband, the then Tory MP for Colchester North, Sir Antony Buck, would not find them. But Sir Antony stumbled on some of them and has admitted that they contributed to the final break-up of the marriage in September last year.

The letters were reproduced at length in the *News of the World*. In one, Sir Peter wrote: "You have maturity beyond your years, yet the body of a young girl. You have experienced so much of life, yet have the beauty of the unscathed."

"Your face is serene. Your eyes piercing, your mouth enchanting, your back elegant, your hands so graceful, your skin so very fair and satin to touch, your nipples so delicately pink, like a girl, your breasts so petite, your legs so gazelle-like, your smell so overpoweringly in-

toxicating. How I long to hold you in my arms, to crush you, to envelop you in kisses, to caress you."

In another, he said: "You were so beautiful, and I so loved the clothes you wore — and the ones you didn't!" In one, sent on November 20, 1991, soon after the affair had begun, he wrote: "My darling, my little one, my love. Nothing has ever happened to me like this. I love you to distraction."

"You are all in a woman that I love and hope for; on top of that is you Bienvenida, the person I find you utterly captivating, enchanting, intelligent, practical, determined, overwhelmingly beautiful and desirable."

"Your mind is agile, deep and challenging. Your body is incomparable and your face utterly beautiful. You move like a gazelle, dress like a queen, and have impeccable taste. Yet under that, I catch glimpses of a little girl who needs cherishing and loving as we all do — and then I long to call you 'my little one'."

"I adore you Bienvenida; I love you more than I can express. As I looked into your

beautiful eyes last evening and you wept a little. I was moved beyond measure. We must develop together and then take on the world. Growing together, loving together, getting ever closer, building a new world for us. We both know the constraints but we will work even harder to overcome them. I know. Life is empty when you are not there."

In another letter dated September 4, 1991, Sir Peter wrote and thanked her for the gift of an expensive Panther fountain pen. They had planned to spend a holiday together near Lake Como in northern Italy. When it was cancelled, she spent the refunded money on the pen.

Sir Peter rarely bought her gifts and complained of being "hard up". But he was generous with his compliments. "My dearest darling little one" he wrote. "Thank you for your most delightful present. I shall treasure it all my life as a token of our love, and as a hallmark of your elegance and style. I will love you all my life and beyond to eternity. You are my sun, my heaven, my light, and my life."

## Whistle-blower given 10 years for murder plot

BY RICHARD DUCE

STANLEY Adams, the man who became celebrated for exposing price-fixing among international drug companies 20 years ago, was jailed for ten years yesterday for plotting to murder his wife and claim on a £500,000 insurance policy.

The reputation of the former senior manager with Hoffmann-La Roche as a man of conscience evaporated with his conviction at Bristol Crown Court of planning to kill his third wife Deborah.

The court had heard that Adams, born in Malta and educated at London University and Ruskin College, Oxford, was prepared to pay £10,000 to a contract killer after advertising in a specialist newspaper for a mercenary.

The plot was exposed when the man, Anthony Cox, went to police and told them of Adams's plan to have his wife killed on the Greek island of Kos in June 1993.

Judge Fallon told Adams, 66, who had denied soliciting Mr Cox to murder his wife: "It is true that you destroyed a very good reputation as a result of this offence. No one hearing what has gone on in the court can conclude other than that this was a wicked, calculated and despicable offence to end your wife's life for substantial financial gain."

Adams was said to have faced financial ruin trying to service two mortgages, so took out the £500,000 insurance policy with a view to having his wife murdered.

Mrs Adams, 45, uncovered the plan after her husband was injured in a car crash and was in hospital for two months. She found papers relating to Mr Cox in his pocket but refused to believe a murder plot until police confirmed he intended to have Mr Cox kill her.

Mrs Adams told the court: "In the handwritten letter there were references to a 'job' to be done for money, that the job was to be abroad which might make it more difficult



Stanley Adams: hired a mercenary for the 'job'



Deborah Adams was insured for £500,000

and therefore more expensive. I spoke to my husband about the letters and he said that he had wanted to make contact with mercenaries because he was thinking of writing another book."

Mr Cox, a former serving soldier in Northern Ireland, gave his evidence against Mr Adams from behind a screen.

He said: "As soon as it was mentioned I went cold. It's not every day that you are asked to murder someone. But I said that I would accept the offer. I thought if I could get as much evidence as possible I could go to the police."

Adams, of Chilthorne Down, Somerset, claimed that the intended victim had been his sister-in-law Jennifer Shepherd and he only planned to frighten her because she had inherited from her parents' will instead of his wife.

## Navy man bit Wren's buttock in Greek bar

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A PETTY officer from HMS *Invincible* twice bit a Wren on the buttock during a drunken row ashore.

David Quilter was celebrating his engagement to another Wren at a Greek bar when he dropped to his knees and sank his teeth into Sub Lt Selina Lamb's buttock. He also hit Wren Barbara Stanforth in the face after she slapped him for prodding her chest.

A court martial yesterday gave Quilter, 27, a suspended sentence of 28 days' detention and deprived of him two good conduct badges. He admitted assault and causing actual bodily harm.

LCmdr David Steel, prosecuting, said Quilter, a stranger to Sub Lt Lamb, approached her in a bar, where he was behaving loudly. "He knelt down behind her on the floor and bit her on the right buttock." He bit her again before assaulting Wren Stanforth, whose boy friend stopped Quilter by punching him in the face and cutting his lip.

The incident came a month after Wren Sylvia Panter and Petty Officer Ian Luff jumped ship from *Invincible* off Greece in September with £11,000 from the sale. Both were jailed and dismissed from the Navy last week.

## Wife who killed to end abuse is freed

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who stabbed her husband to death after suffering years of physical abuse was told by a judge: "If you had not killed him, he would have killed you."

Barbara Carty, 59, of Bromley, Kent, was put on probation for three years by the Old Bailey yesterday after she pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Nicholas Price QC, for the defence, said: "In effect, she has been serving a life sentence for 43 years."

The court was told that Mrs Carty married her husband, Michael, when aged 16. During the course of their marriage he stabbed, kicked and burnt her with cigarettes.

Finally, after a dispute in which her husband battered her and banged her head against a wall, Mrs Carty stabbed him five times with a carving knife. One of the wounds penetrated the 67-year-old man's heart and he later died in hospital.

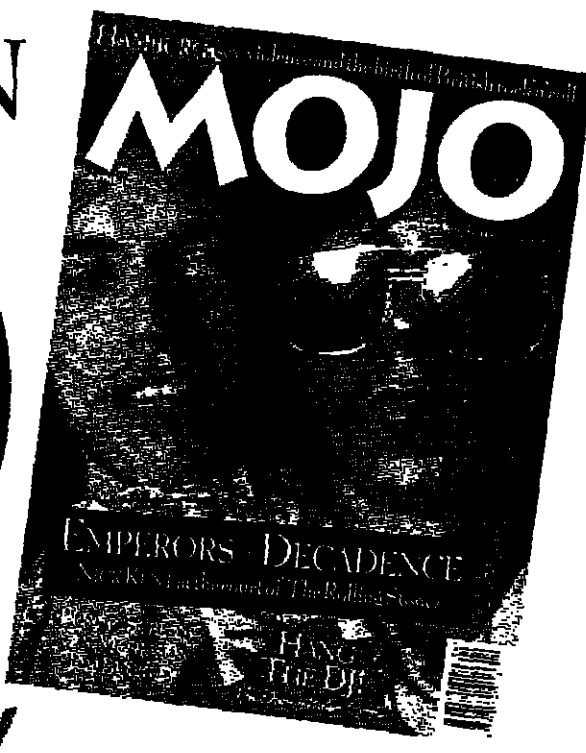
Judge Grigson told her: "The taking of another's life is always serious, but not only was there provocation by your husband's violent conduct on the occasion he died but conduct throughout the marriage which drove you to a state of anxiety. The course I intend to take is to try to repair some of that damage."

## THE STONES: TWILIGHT IN BABYLON

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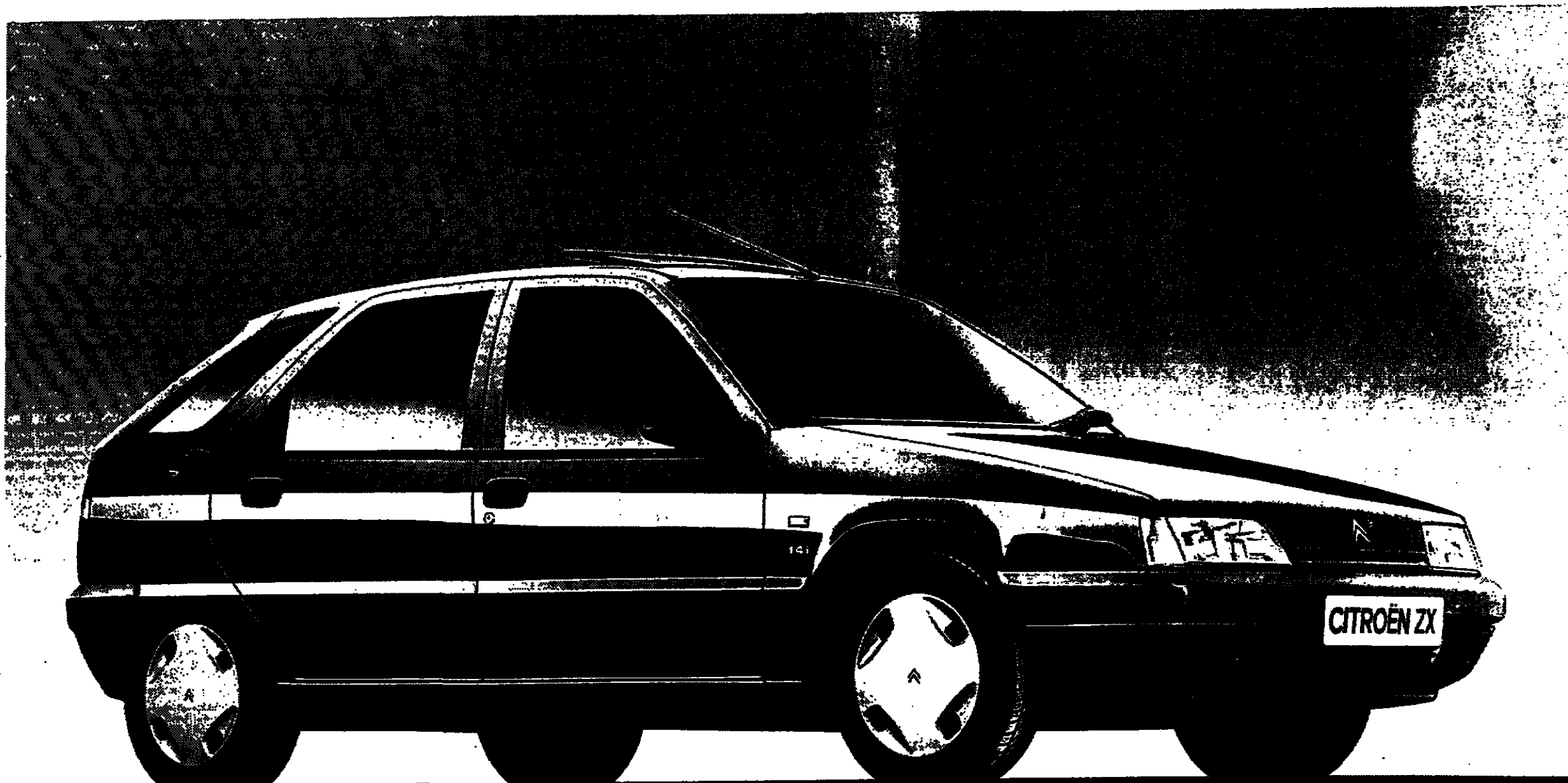
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'People say it is a large amount, but I would return every penny to have my previous life back'

## Career woman gets record £3.4m for road crash injuries

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BRILLIANT career woman who was paralysed from the neck down when the car in which she was a passenger swerved to avoid a falling plank was awarded record damages of £3.4 million yesterday.

The lump sum award to Christine Leung, 37, who cannot move without help or breathe without a machine, is the highest in Britain for a personal injury and almost double the previous highest of £1.7 million.

Yesterday Ms Leung, who needs 24-hour medical care, said at her solicitor's office in Birmingham that she would swap every penny to get her old life back. "I had a very happy life at the time and I was enjoying myself. I was looking forward to my future but unfortunately that has all been taken away from me."

"People say the amount of money I was awarded is large, but I would give back every penny to have my previous life back. My future now is simply to live and survive and make the most of what I've got left. It is not much, but with a good team of carers I can live a reasonable and comfortable life, as much as a disabled person can."

Ms Leung was 32 in June 1989 when she was travelling home from a trip with three friends. A plank flew from the luggage-laden roof rack of a Ford escort in front and the car carrying Ms Leung, a rear seat passenger, swerved to avoid it, hit the central reservation of the M3 in Surrey and overturned.

Ms Leung suffered severe

spinal injuries which caused complete tetraplegia from her shoulders down. The accident cut short a promising career in marketing. She was also midway through an MBA at Birmingham University.

Yesterday's award, made at the High Court in Birmingham after an out-of-court settlement, includes compensation for injury, for loss of earnings and for the cost of care for the rest of her life.

Ms Leung, who lives in a converted bungalow at Solihull, West Midlands, and has a son aged 17, is confined to a wheelchair which she cannot move herself. She has two permanent nurses and will always be reliant on others.

She was the first woman to become an area sales manager for the cosmetics company ROC (UK) and worked as a branch manager for a chain of shoe shops, winning an award in 1986 for the best sales performance of the year.

Her solicitor Stuart Henderson paid tribute to her courage and dynamism yesterday. He said: "She is the most brilliant, bright woman you could ever meet and potentially had a very successful career in marketing. She has shown real strength and courage during this long and arduous case. Her lifestyle must be an enormous encouragement to others with severe disabilities."

He expressed concern that many people who suffered similar serious injuries did not realise the need to seek help from a specialist personal injury lawyer. "Multinational

insurance and re-insurance companies use highly experienced teams of solicitors to defend these claims. They are provided with unlimited resources to defeat, delay and damage the claims brought."

In Ms Leung's case, the £3.4 million will be paid by the Eagle Star Group, insurers of the motorist driving the car in front, Matthew Neville, from Hampshire.

Personal injury awards recently have reached much higher figures, but those are for so-called structured settlements, paid over the period of the victim's life.

Ms Leung added: "My life has changed drastically, but I was a very active person and I want to try to get out and do at least some of the things I did before. I am optimistic and determined not to just lie in bed and get depressed."



Ms Leung in Birmingham yesterday, with her solicitor Stuart Henderson and her brother Eddy Leung, after her award in the High Court

## Radio 5 sets sights on young audience

RADIO 5 Live, Britain's first continuous news and sports radio network, will have a schedule designed to appeal to a young audience outside London when it goes on air on Monday, March 28 (Alexandra Frean writes).

Jane Garvey, a former presenter with BBC Radio Hereford, will be first on air at 5am with *Morning Report*, a one-hour early morning news programme.

Two of the station's flagship magazine programmes will also be presented by women. Diana Madill will host *The Magazine* between 8.35am and noon.

The programme will include phone-ins, environmental features and a regular 15-minute slot called *Actually*, looking at news through the eyes of ordinary people.

Sybil Ruscoe, a former Radio 1 journalist, will present a show between 2pm and 4pm which will include interviews with celebrities and in-depth news coverage. And there will be a weekly, hour-long evening sports magazine programme, *Women on Top*, hosted by the author Frances Edmonds, wife of the former England cricketer Phil Edmonds.

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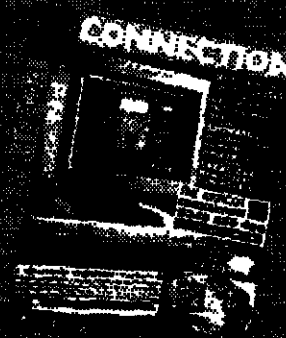
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# Ah well, you can't win them all.

ITN has just won the latest BAFTA award for News and Actuality Coverage in 1993.

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## Prince backs £4m drive to teach English to foreigners

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales lamented a 30-year decline in standards of spoken English yesterday as he launched a £4 million project to teach the language to foreigners.

Praising an initiative led by the British Council and the BBC, the Prince said that often more care was taken to speak English properly abroad than in Britain. Good grammar had been a particular casualty over the 30-40 years in which standards had fallen.

Standards of English teaching have been a favourite target of the Prince since he intervened in the education debate, delivering Shakespeare's birthday lecture three years ago in Stratford-upon-Avon. He argued then that educators were denying British youth its cultural heritage by marginalising serious literary study.

He said yesterday that teachers were central to reviving the language. He also urged Britons to make more effort to learn languages such as Chinese and Japanese if business opportunities were not to be lost.

The Prince, launching the *Look Ahead* project as vice-patron of the British Council, said: "We're not good enough at teaching other people's languages. It is not good enough to expect other people to conduct business in English." Speaking at the council's London headquarters, he admitted he wished he had learned a range of languages including Italian, Spanish and German. The *Look Ahead* project is

designed to give Britain a lead in the increasingly competitive and lucrative market for the teaching of English as a foreign language. The BBC World Service, the council, the Longman publishing group and the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, four of the biggest names in the field, have combined for the first time.

The project is designed to steal a march on American and Australian rivals, with 60 television programmes and the same number of complementary radio broadcasts, as well as materials for study in the classroom and on one's own.

National television stations in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have already taken the programmes, and China, South Korea and Taiwan are expected to follow suit.

The classroom course has a potential market of 25 million formal learners, who will be able to take tests set in Cambridge as part of a Council of Europe project. The whole venture is expected to break even within five years.

Prince Charles said: "We do have a duty to provide English language teaching to the highest possible standard to all the millions of people around the world who are so keen to learn this language."

"This project is going to make an enormous difference to that aim."

Diary, page 20

## Architects under fire

THE Prince of Wales has renewed his attack on architects and town planners (Marcus Binney writes).

In the launch issue of *Perspectives*, the new magazine funded by his Institute of Architecture, the Prince talks of "the failures in architecture and planning which have done so much to disfigure our towns and countryside and which have condemned too

many people to live and work in ugly, inhumane and often polluted environments".

He said: "The world we are creating for our children should be less ugly and less ecologically damaged than the world which my generation inherited."

*Perspectives* is due to go on sale tomorrow morning.

Leading article, page 21



Brian Gosschalk and the reports that make up the most comprehensive survey of English life for 900 years

## Outsider rewrites the Domesday Book

By IAN MURRAY

BRIAN Gosschalk is a South African married to a Frenchwoman, but he confidently claims to know more about England and the English than any man alive. "I suppose I have become the world's leading expert on community identity in this country," he says.

His confidence rests on interviews conducted in almost every parish in shire England over the past 18 months. As head of the local government unit at MORI, he has been charged with finding out what the English think about plans to restructure and redefine the boundaries of the shires.

To do this he has been given a budget of £500,000 so far to send out 1,500 researchers to conduct 20-minute interviews with 60,000 people, all carefully selected to be representative of local communities. The aim is to enable

One man knows exactly what the villagers of England think about plans to restructure their shire counties

the Local Government Commission for England to carry out its obligation to consult widely before making any proposals for change.

Feelings are running high in those areas likely to undergo the most radical change. Humberside lost its legal battle for survival on Friday when the High Court refused the county council permission to contest proposals that it be reabsorbed by Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. A MORI poll last month found that most people who live in Humberside want the county to survive.

The product of the MORI interviews is a collection of red and green spiral-bound reports which make up the most comprehensive survey

of England since the *Domesday Book*. Mr Gosschalk knows what they all say.

"I know the difference between the way they think on the left bank and the right bank of the River Arun," he says. "I know where people shop, play sports, go to church and work. I know the geography of places most people have never heard of." He is keen to have his knowledge tested. "Ask me a question about anywhere," he pleads. "Pick anywhere you like."

He was asked about Deal in east Kent and with scarcely a moment for thought he had all the answers. "You do most of your shopping in Deal but you go in to Dover occasionally for a big shop. You

probably work in Dover, but you don't like the place. You associate as much with Kent as with your local council." He is eager to tell more but he has already proved his point. He knows the pattern of everyday life and loyalties in Deal.

The desire for change is generally much stronger in urban than in rural areas, where the population tends to prefer leaving things as they are but overall he has found a large measure of apathy and ignorance about the subject. Even in counties where the local authority has gone to the expense and effort of putting information about reorganisation through every letter box, a third of the population admitted to researchers they had never even heard about the idea.

MORI has found public attitudes are fickle. Two out of three people would prefer to have just one local authority looking after all the ser-

vices in their area. However, almost every time the commission has proposed abolishing two-tier council arrangements and replacing them with unitary authorities, he has found twice as many then want to preserve the status quo.

"People like the principle of a unitary authority because they see that as a way of clearing up a muddle," says Mr Gosschalk. "But transforming the principle into reality is proving very difficult. The public like the idea of having just one authority in charge of everything in their area."

He says his research should help to cut what he calls the Gordian knot of these conflicting emotions surrounding reorganisation. By defining local attitudes in a process of elimination, he helps the commission to identify the least acceptable solutions and thus propose the best available compromise.

## Sex photos worker wins £11,000

An engineering firm must pay £11,279 in damages to Annette Stewart, who was "degraded and embarrassed" by soft-porn pictures put up around her former workplace, an industrial tribunal ruled.

Miss Stewart, 25, resigned when Cleveland Guest (Engineering) of Colne, Lancashire, failed to deal with the matter to her satisfaction. The company said other female employees had not complained.

Miss Stewart won a claim for constructive dismissal but lost a sex discrimination claim.

## Dean resigns

The Dean of Salford has resigned after a Sunday newspaper revealed his affair with a married woman. The Rev Geoffrey Howard, 48, who is married with six children, had an eight-month relationship with a market researcher.

## Boy held

A boy aged 13 accused of murdering Phyllis Saville, 85, of Wimborne, Dorset, was remanded into secure accommodation for a further week by the town's youth court.

## Victim named

A man killed when scaffolding collapsed in high winds at Sellafield on Sunday has been named as John Graham, 43, of Workington, Cumbria.

## Drug remands

Two men were remanded in custody by Dover magistrates yesterday after customs officials seized heroin with a street value of £8 million.

## Milkman hunt

Police are hunting for Martin Dixon, 30, a milkman who disappeared from his float while on his morning rounds in Ripon, North Yorkshire.

## Boy strangled

Kyle Morgan, 5, of Risca, Gwent, was strangled and died on Sunday when his coat became caught on a spike as he climbed over a fence.

## Peerless Santa

Lord Attenborough is to play Father Christmas in a remake of the 1940s film *The Miracle of 34th Street*.



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BY RICHARD DUCE

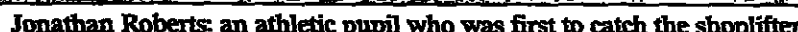
**BY A STAFF REPORTER**

Gary Loftus, a supermarket worker, told the court: "His punches and kick were violent and unnecessary. Jon was 6ft and nine and a half stones. Bray was a lot bigger than Jon was. He could have pushed him away. He could have just shrugged him off."

Mr Bray is said to have gone to a pub, where he called a taxi and ordered the driver to go through the car park where medical staff were trying to revive the boy.

Mr Bray, who was arrested that night, admitted to police that he had caused the death of the schoolboy, the court was told. He said it was an accident and that his motive had been to escape. "There as no intention of doing any serious harm to him. What I wanted was for him to let me go. I struck out to get away," he is said to have told the police.

**The trial continues.**



Mr West, 52, is in prison custody following a court appearance before Gloucester magistrates on Friday last week when he was accused of eight murders of young women and girls over the past 22 years.

**BY ALISON ROBERTS**  
**ARTS REPORTER**

**By MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT**

The scale of the new subsidy became apparent when Mrs Shephard unveiled the forms

farmers will have to fill in this year to claim the subsidies. Last year there was an outcry because of the complexity of the paperwork required under the so-called Integrated Administration and Control Sys-

She said: "No one likes filling in forms, and the IACS forms will never be the sort that can be dashed off in five minutes. But farmers stand to receive more than £2 billion through direct payments. In

terms of returns per minute of time spent in form filling, that must be pretty good."

After six months of auditions and contact with 600 children, the director Richard Eyre decided that the National should not burden boys as young as eight with stressful rehearsal and performance schedules.

Some schools, including Eton, Harrow and St Paul's, had refused to let their pupils join auditions. They argued that the time commitment required by the National would disrupt academic work and holidays.

Stephen Wood, of the National, said: "When we looked into the logistics of rehearsing, we realised that it would have been asking an awful lot from very small kids."

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# Theft of off-road vehicles forces up insurance costs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR thieves stealing expensive off-road vehicles to sell around the world are forcing big increases in insurance premiums on thousands of British drivers.

Thefts of four-wheel-drive vehicles, such as the Land Rover Discovery, Range Rover and Mitsubishi Shogun, are increasing so fast that insurers are raising premiums to meet losses running into millions of pounds. Norwich Union, the biggest motor insurer, said yesterday that off-roaders were in danger of replacing GTI cars as the favourite targets for thieves.

A rise in premiums and insistence on expensive anti-theft equipment is likely to hit sales of 4x4 vehicles, which almost doubled last year to more than 58,000. One of the reasons for their popularity was that their insurance classification was often lower than a similarly priced luxury car and much lower than high-performance models.

That gap is now closing. Sun Alliance said yesterday that it was putting several models into new categories to

reflect the increasing levels of theft. The premium for a £20,799 Mitsubishi Shogun turbo-diesel two years ago was £272 lower than for a £16,205 Vauxhall Astra GSi driven by a 30-year-old marketing executive living in London, according to Norwich Union figures. Today, the difference is £90.

International gangs have discovered big business in stealing 4x4 vehicles in Britain. Police in Cyprus claim to have broken up a car-smuggling ring over the weekend, arresting a Briton and a Cypriot. Among the haul of seven cars were two Range Rovers and two Shoguns.

The vehicles command high prices in foreign markets, particularly where they are in short supply or where they suit difficult road conditions. Countries such as South Africa, Malta, Malaysia and the Caribbean are prime destinations because they also drive on the left. The stolen cars are

either driven on to ferries or shipped in containers. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are also relatively simple to dismantle because of their construction. Thieves can strip vehicles to ship them by container and reassemble them later. Harbour authorities intercepted a shipment of 16 4x4 vehicles at Felixstowe last year, said to be part of a total consignment of 200. Between 60 and 80 were bound for Pakistan.

The Association of British Insurers co-operates with 17 other countries to try to track down stolen vehicles. But Tony Simms, co-ordinator of the motor insurance anti-fraud and theft register, admitted that it recovered only about 200 cars last year at a time when international gangs were becoming more active.

Mr Simms said: "These four-wheel-drives can get very big prices abroad so that is why they are growing more popular with thieves. Just as they become more popular here, they are popular abroad and there is a big demand."

## BMW tie helps Rover

SALES of Rover cars jumped in Germany last month after the announcement of the takeover by BMW (Kevin Eason writes).

British Aerospace shareholders, who vote today on whether to accept BMW's offer of £800 million and end British ownership of the country's last volume car maker, will be told of a sudden upsurge of interest in Rover in Germany.

Bernard Fischetsrieder, BMW's chairman, believes

Rover sales could increase from 12,000 last year to more than 100,000 as German buyers become aware of the BMW link.

More than 250 BMW dealers have already applied for a Rover franchise, but have been put on a waiting list until after the formal vote by BAe shareholders who are expected to accept the offer. BMW, one of the world's most respected car makers, has promised Rover both independence and growth.



A remake of *The Quatermass Experiment* is one film planned for this year

## Gore roars back from the grave

By ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

THE resurrection of Hammer Films came a step nearer yesterday when it emerged that *Frankenstein Created Woman*, *The Mummy* and *Vlad the Impaler* will head a list of classic horrors to be remade this year.

The move follows last year's signing of a deal with Warner Brothers. Since then Roy Scheider, who bought the company nine years ago, has been busy recruiting actors and directors.

He said that Hollywood stars were flocking to his Los Angeles office. His agents have spoken to 104 scriptwriters and the director Martin Scorsese is interested in the *Vlad the Impaler* project, which will be shot in Romania and Britain.

*Children of the Wolf* is the only film to be made entirely in Britain, where shooting will begin in the summer. Richard Franklyn will direct an adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's *The House on the Strand* and Renny Harlin will direct a remake of *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*.

## Rockets 'littering space with junk'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE amount of man-made debris in space is increasing at an unprecedented rate, scientists at the University of Kent have discovered.

Analysis of panels from a spacecraft recently recovered by the space shuttle show at least five times as many impacts by tiny particles a few tenths of a millimetre in diameter as on similar panels flown in the 1980s.

In eleven months between 1992 and 1993, the one square-metre aluminium panel flown on the Eureka spacecraft had been hit by several hundred particles, Dr John Zarnecki, of the university's Unit for Space Sciences, says.

The group has found similar effects in one of the solar arrays from the Hubble space telescope brought back following the Hubble repair mission.

The particles include flakes of titanium-based paints from satellites and plenty of other less easily identified debris. "Every time a rocket motor goes off in space, it releases particles," Dr Zarnecki says.

"From time to time a rocket motor explodes, and that releases lots of junk. And we still see debris from deliberate explosions in space, such as the anti-satellite tests carried out by the US and the former USSR."

Although the particles are tiny, they move at hundreds of kilometres a second, and are already being blamed for damaging solar arrays on satellites, sand-blasting mirrors and blurring the view through space telescopes. Bigger particles could take out an entire satellite by destroying the microchips that control it.

"Space agencies are beginning to sit up and take notice," Dr Zarnecki says. "They are trying to design satellites so that the paint doesn't flake off." Paint is needed to help to control the temperature of the satellite.

In time, the debris in low orbit will decay back into the atmosphere but it remains unaffected in the important geostationary orbit 23,000 miles up where television satellites are placed.

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# Controversial Bills vie for 'last chance' slots

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CABINET ministers are vying to get a number of controversial Bills included in the Queen's Speech this autumn.

Business managers are being inundated with bids by ministers for legislation which has been pledged in the Tory manifesto, promised in last year's Budget or has been prompted by events such as the Maxwell pension scandal. These include a big Bill on pensions, raising the pension age for women to 65; measures to cut unemployment benefit to six months; the abolition of regional health authorities and a European Bill to allow for the enlargement of the union which will give Tory Euro-sceptics another chance to rebel.

Department heads are also pressing for new moves such as imposing motorway tolls, extending privatisation to other government agencies and setting up an environmental protection agency.

The ministerial legislative committee, which decides on which Bills should go forward, has already started

Ministers fear a general election will ruin the chances of unpopular Bills that do not get into the next Queen's Speech

drawing up draft plans for the Queen's Speech although final decisions will wait to the end of this session.

Many ministers believe that if they fail to get their policies into the legislative timetable for next year, they risk losing the plans altogether in the run-up to the general election, which could be held in 1996. Business managers are also keen to ensure that the more controversial measures, which risk a stormy passage through Parliament, either get in this year's Queen's Speech or are dropped until after the election. Popular Bills, which will please MPs and the public, are likely to be included in the 1995-96 legislative timetable.

There is pressure from some quarters to delay the more radical moves, such as the privatisation of the Post Office, until after the election. Plans for motorway tolls and privacy laws may also be postponed. The Prime Minister

has already indicated that he wants a rethink of the Government's proposals to curb press freedom, which could result in legislation, already delayed once, being held over for another year.

Peter Lilley's Pensions Bill is expected to be the biggest legislative package next year. Apart from setting a common retirement age it will also include plans to encourage younger people to opt out of Serps, and impose tighter controls for private pension funds. A white paper giving the Government's response to the report on company pensions from Professor Goode is expected this summer. The Goode committee suggested a compensation scheme to cover pensioners who lost out through fraud or theft or other misappropriation of funds.

Mr Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is expecting a rougher ride over his plans to introduce a job-seekers allow-

ance, effectively reducing unemployment benefit from 12 to six months. The measure, which was announced in the November Budget is due to be implemented in April 1996.

Legislation to allow for the European Union to be enlarged is also likely to get a stormy passage through the Commons, given the row over the Maastricht Treaty. However, business managers said that this Bill had to be included to comply with the EU.

The environmental protection Bill, which includes the setting up of a new agency to oversee both water and air pollution, was initially expected in the last Queen's Speech.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, has been prompted to abolish regional health authorities to streamline NHS management.

Business managers insisted that no Bills had yet been ruled in or out. One well-placed source conceded that ministers were now positioning themselves with the hope of getting their legislation in first. Manifesto pledges or commitments announced in the last Budget were not sacrosanct, he said.

## Praise for India reforms

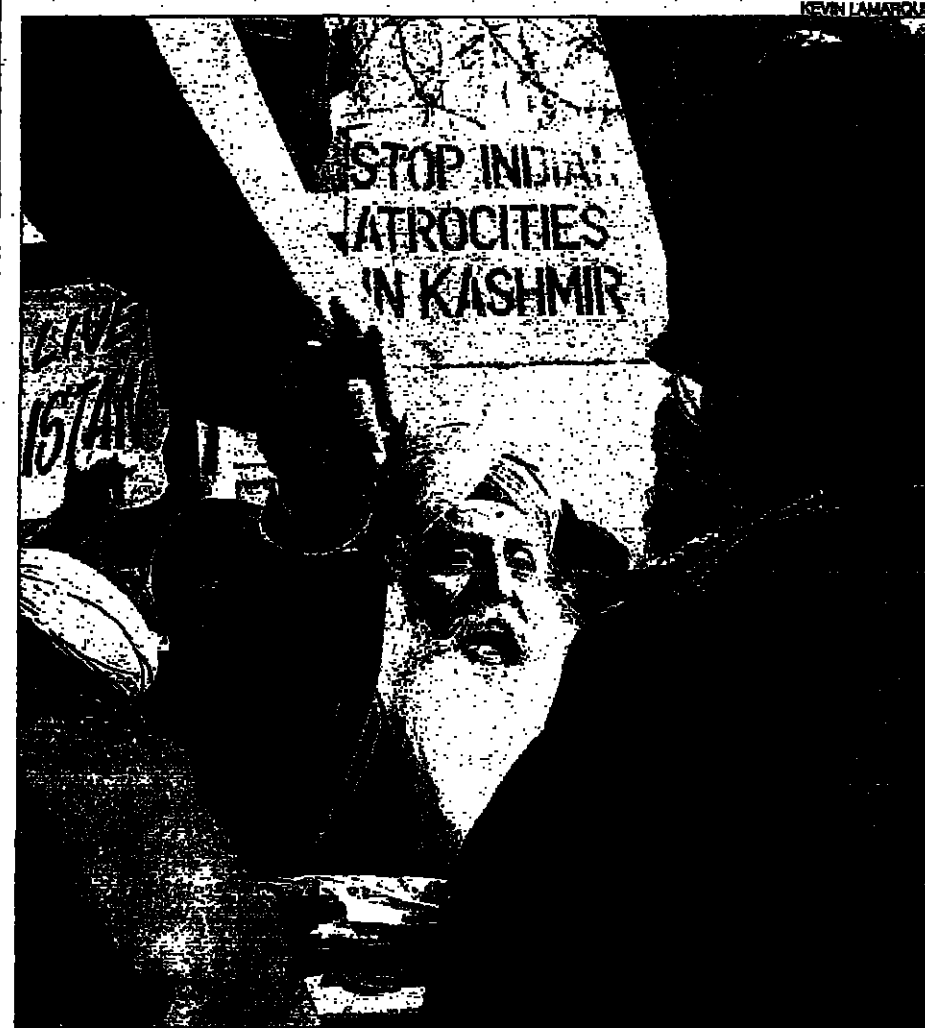
By JONATHAN PINN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major heaped praise on economic reforms in India yesterday at Downing Street as with P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister.

However, during the meeting he raised British concerns about human rights abuses in Kashmir, where up to 100,000 Indian troops are attempting to quell a four-year rebellion.

The two leaders signed a trade promotion agreement aimed at further increasing the record £2.7 billion of business conducted between the two countries last year.

The meeting came a year after the Indo-British Partnership Initiative was set up to foster "a deep and stronger trade partnership between Britain and India". Britain is to give further £10 million in aid for reconstruction work after last year's Maharashtra earthquake in India, from which Chalker, the overseas aid minister, announced yesterday.



A demonstrator argues with police outside 10 Downing Street yesterday

## CBI chief attacks way Britain is run

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of British industry last night demanded wide-ranging changes in central and local government and in Britain's European role.

Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, set out a catalogue of reforms which called into question the fabric of decision-making in Britain.

Local government was at the head of what Mr Davies described as "a menu of modest proposals" which would require an overhauling of the way that the public sector was run at regional and local level.

Mr Davies, speaking to the European Policy Forum, an independent think tank, demanded that central government should allow local councils greater flexibility over their own functions, particularly through greater control of their own money.

The political process was unbalanced at a local level because councils raised only one-fifth of their finances. Wider sources of revenue, such as channelling vehicle excise duty to local councils, would help to make local authorities self-financing, while national services, such as education, should be taken out of local authority control.

Although Mr Davies stressed that he was speaking personally, rather than as the head of the CBI, his intervention comes at a sensitive time for the Government as it faces

criticism for its handling of local government.

Voicing the concerns of the business community, he complained that there was a need for a regional dimension for handling transport and planning needs. He said many local authorities were "small-minded, grotesquely inefficient and generally awful", and were "in desperate need of reform".

However, even after 144 pieces of legislation under the Tory Government, Mr Davies insisted last night that "we are left with much confusion and conflict".

Mr Davies's former role as head of the Audit Commission, which scrutinises local government, will add weight to his criticism that "it is hard to argue that this catalogue [of change] has left local government in a healthier state than before".

His pressure for change will strike a chord with many MPs of all parties who are concerned that the relationship between local and central government has become increasingly strained.

### In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: employment, Prime Minister. Local Government (Wales) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill, report, first day.



## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Shirov shines

Alexei Shirov, the Latvian grandmaster, has assured himself of the greatest success of his career so far at Linares. Whatever happens in the final round he cannot finish lower than third equal and still has a chance to catch Garry Kasparov, who is second. Shirov's love of unorthodox complications leads to electrifying chess, as in the following game, but has often let him down in world cycle qualifying events which demand a more pragmatic approach. In spite of his success at Linares, he has found himself eliminated from both the Fide and PCA World Championship cycles. The complications reach their height when White makes his second queen on move 36 (see diagram).

White: Vladimir Kramnik

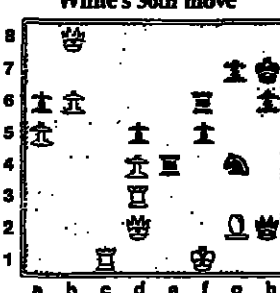
Black: Alexei Shirov

Linares, March 1994

Queen's Gambit Declined

- |    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 1  | Nf3 | d5   |
| 2  | d4  | Bf5  |
| 3  | c4  | e6   |
| 4  | Nc3 | c6   |
| 5  | Qb3 | Qc7  |
| 6  | Bd4 | Qc8  |
| 7  | e3  | Nf6  |
| 8  | Qa4 | Nbd7 |
| 9  | b4  | a6   |
| 10 | N3  | Bc7  |
| 11 | Ob3 | O-O  |
| 12 | Bc2 | Bc4  |
| 13 | Bc2 | Bc4  |
| 14 | O-O | Bd8  |
| 15 | Ba3 | Bc7  |
| 16 | a4  | h6   |
| 17 | Bg5 | Nd6  |
| 18 | Bb6 | Bb6  |
| 19 | b5  | a5   |
| 20 | b6  | Bb6  |
| 21 | a5  | exd4 |

### Position after White's 36th move



- |    |      |
|----|------|
| 36 | Qxb8 |
| 37 | h5   |
| 38 | Rg4  |
| 39 | d7   |
| 40 | Rc2  |
| 41 | Qc2  |
| 42 | Rg2  |
| 43 | Kf2  |
| 44 | Ob1  |

White resigns

### Scores after 12 rounds

With one round to go, Anatoly Karpov has won the tournament. Full scores are: Karpov 10 points; Kasparov 8.5; Shirov 8; Bareev 7; Kramnik 6.5; Anand, Kamsky, Lautier 6; Topalov, Gelfand 5.5; Ivanchuk 5; Iliescu 4.5; Polgar 3.5; Beliavsky 2.

Winning Move, page 48





# Tory right elects Euro-rebel in rebuff for Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major suffered a setback yesterday when the Tory right re-elected a hardliner to run the party's biggest parliamentary grouping in a contest widely seen as a test of loyalty to the Prime Minister.

Sir George Gardiner, MP for Reigate and a Maastricht rebel, comfortably saw off a challenge from Sir Anthony Durant, a former whip, for the chairmanship of the 107-strong 92 Group. Although no voting figures were officially released, it is understood that Sir George had a majority of 20-25 among the 101 Conservatives who voted in the contest.

Sir James Spicer, a former Tory Party vice-chairman and Sir Anthony's campaign manager, failed in his bid for election to the group's five-strong steering committee in another rebuff for the party establishment.

The result of the secret ballot was widely seen at Westminster as a defeat for

Mr Major and loyalist MPs. It will fuel the continuing speculation about his position.

Sir George's backers were delighted with the result, which suggests that at least 60 MPs voted for him in spite of a concerted operation on behalf of Sir Anthony. The stakes were raised by Mr Major's public humiliation of Sir George last month when he sent him packing for daring to suggest the shape of the next Cabinet reshuffle.

Government whips and loyalist MPs were jubilant then that Mr Major had dismissed Sir George and his Thatcherite followers after a couple of minutes. But yesterday one leading right-winger said:

"The message to John Major is clear: 'If you want to stay as leader stop roughing up the right.' Sir George was more circumspect: 'We have always been a loyalist grouping and this will continue. Our efforts will still be directed to helping

the Government to regain its popularity."

It was not lost on MPs that Sir George spoke of the Government regaining its popularity rather than Mr Major. The hardline Thatcherite right, which voted for Mr Major in 1990, is deeply unhappy with his performance. Some are wondering whether Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke might make a better leader. But Sir George evidently believes that Mr Major can still recapture right-wing support if he takes a tougher line on Europe, tax and spending, Northern Ireland and the economy, and promotes right-wingers in the reshuffle expected after the June 9 European election.

Sir Anthony, MP for Reading West, said he was disappointed at the result but added that he and Sir George were supporters of the Prime Minister.

The campaign for the 92 Group chairmanship, a post Sir George has held for the



Sir George Gardiner, re-elected to run the right-wing Tory 92 Group

past ten years, was marked by Sir Anthony's implication in a private letter to Tory MPs that the loyalty of the group to the Prime Minister was in doubt.

Sir George countered by urging his colleagues not to bow to pressure from the Government whips and retain their distinctive "sound" voice.

One right-winger said that although Sir George had made an "ass of himself

through his student politics" the right was not prepared to muzzle its independent voice on the back benches. One centre-left minister said that the decision to run a "Whip's Office poodle" against Sir George, one of Baroness Thatcher's "gang of four" in the 1970s, had backfired.

John Townend (Bridlington) was returned unopposed as secretary of the 92 Group. The steering committee comprises:

Vivian Bendall (Ilford North), Robert Dunn (Dartford), Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham Edgbaston), James Pawsey (Rugby and Kenilworth) and Graham Riddick (Colne Valley).

The only change was the replacement of Marion Roe (Brixton), who did not stand for re-election, by Mr Riddick.

viewing the effectiveness of legislation and giving priority to measures likely to be passed by the law.

These proposals are not only sensible but they have been put forward in virtually every study on legislative procedures for at least two decades. Little has happened, apart from the publication of some draft clauses on big tax reform. Procedural reform interests few at Westminster. It is always brushed aside. Such changes anyway require the executive to surrender some control over legislation: to accept the proposals can be tantamount to do not have to regard as unalterable from the day they are announced.

Mr Davies also urged a shift toward more pragmatic legislation, dealing with anomalies and obvious problems rather than overhauling the whole system. He noted, for example, that all involved agreed on the necessity for a new Restrictive Practices Bill. Consultations were held in 1989, but there has been no action.

The same is true of privatisation and contract and competition law. The trouble is that none offers political rewards either to the minister or his party compared with a big new reforming measure.

Since a minister usually only lasts for two or three years in charge of a department, he or she wants a rapid and very public memorial, knowing that any resulting problems will not appear until someone else has taken over.

So when the word goes out, as it always does at this time of year, that an influential group of ministers wants to prune the legislative programme for the next Queen's Speech, it is right to be sceptical. There may be a debate, as there is now, about whether to include this or that controversial measure. But the next Queen's Speech is still likely to be full of Bills. No one has yet found a cure for the compulsion to legislate.

PETER RIDDELL

Lords deal new blow to education reform

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND JOHN O'LEARY

JOHN Patten's battered Education Bill suffered yet another mauling in the Lords yesterday as peers inflicted an unexpected but damaging defeat on the Government over its proposals to reform teacher training.

Rebel Tory peers, led by senior figures from the academic world, have already forced an embarrassing climbdown over plans to shake up student unions, which make up the other half of the Bill. The Government had hoped that the concession would ease the pressure over its controversial proposals to give schools more responsibility for training teachers and establish a teacher training agency.

However, a now familiar coalition of Labour, Liberal Democrat, cross-benchers and rebel Tories quickly quashed the hopes of the Tory Whips' Office in the Lords with a division early in the second day of the committee stage of the Bill.

An amendment aimed at watering down the Government's plans to shift the burden of teacher training from universities and colleges to schools was carried by 12 votes to 121. The amendment places a legal requirement on schools offering teacher-training courses to do so in partnership with a higher education institution.

The move was led by Lord Balfour of Burgh, the Tory academic, and Baroness Warnock, the cross-bench former Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge. The amendment will be unpopular with the Education Secretary, who will probably seek to overturn it when the Bill arrives in the Commons after Easter.

Lord Judd, Labour's education spokesman in the Lords, hailed the vote as "a wonderful result for a civilised approach to education".

Academics, who have argued against the change, welcomed the amendment. Mary Russell, the secretary of the Universities Council for the Education of teachers, said the new wording would help to safeguard the quality of courses.

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# Peace shuttle puts pressure on Arafat to resume talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

INTENSIVE diplomacy involving the United States, Russia and Norway was under way yesterday in an attempt to restart the suspended Arab-Israeli peace talks soon after this week's visit by Washington by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who suspended talks in protest at last month's Hebron mosque massacre, was under international pressure to return to the table. But many leading Palestinians said that such a move would provoke a new wave of violence across the Israeli-occupied territories. Israeli police followed up the outlawing on Sunday of two extremist Jewish groups, Kach and Kahane Lives, with raids on the homes of Jewish militants in Hebron. The police confiscated at least two weapons and issued summonses to court. But the extremists remained defiant. Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, 45, a bearded rabbi from New York who arrived at the padlocked offices of Kahane Lives in Jerusalem, said: "There was nothing wrong with what Dr Baruch Goldstein did in Hebron. He should be no more condemned than President Truman was for dropping the A-bomb on Hiroshima. The Arabs who died were casualties of war." Asked if he would

■ Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington this week has raised hopes for more talks. Yet the PLO is deeply divided on the question, and Jewish extremists are defiant over the banning by the Israelis of two of their groups

have committed the Hebron massacre, the rabbi replied "No", then added: "But don't get me wrong. That is not because it was morally wrong. It is just I do not think I am brave enough."

Amid the diplomatic initiatives, Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State expressed hope after meeting Andrei Kozyrev, his Russian counterpart, in Vladivostok, that the talks would resume soon. American sources said that if the PLO agreed to talks next weekend in Washington, as some officials are predicting, it was expected that Syria, Lebanon and Jordan would quickly follow suit.

However, as talks at PLO headquarters in Tunis continued last night with an American delegation led by Dennis Ross, the co-ordinator of Middle East peace talks, there was no sign that the PLO had achieved either of the two demands it has tabled since the massacre: the disarming of settlers or their removal from the centre of Hebron, a predominantly Arab city. A delegation of three Israeli officials returned to Jerusalem from Tunis after

receiving the PLO's reply to recent Israeli suggestions. Israeli papers reported that Mr Arafat had also demanded firm dates for concluding negotiations on the draft agreement signed last September in Washington, and for his own arrival in the autonomous zone of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem, Yossi Sarid, the Environment Minister, urged Mr Arafat to mention his demands at new negotiations, rather than making them conditions for talks. "I hope and believe, according to all the signs, that negotiations will start at the weekend," he added.

Mr Rabin, who has been struggling to broaden the parliamentary base of his government, also expressed optimism before leaving for Washington where he is to meet President Clinton tomorrow. "I believe we will put the peace negotiations back on track," he stated. "Those who want peace have to know how to overcome painful events."

According to moderate members of the PLO, which is more deeply split

than ever since the Hebron incident, any resumption would be conditional on the passing of the delayed and amended United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the killings. The PLO is split into two main factions. One argues that an early resumption of talks would inflame anger among the Palestinians under occupation. The other asserts that only quick results in the occupied territories can overcome the negative emotions resulting from the Hebron bloodshed.

Despite the bans on Kach and Kahane Lives, Mr Rabin has refused to give in to demands that a new international force should supervise Arab security in the whole of the West Bank and Gaza.

Yesterday it was hard to find anyone living or working close to the Kahane Lives office near Jerusalem's main market district who had a bad word to say about the outlawed "terrorists".

"The Kahane people are good people. What do you foreigners think — that the Arabs are good and should be allowed to terrorise us?" asked the owner of a shoe shop. Across the city, the closed offices of Kach were still filled with anti-Arab pamphlets and books. "Baruch Goldstein — the nation's doctor," read one poster.

□ Rome: Mr Rabin will meet the Pope at the Vatican on Thursday for talks on the Middle East peace process, the Vatican said. (Reuters)



An Indian Muslim boy selling balloons outside the Jama Masjid, the main mosque, in Delhi yesterday during celebrations at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan

## Peasants gape at Peking's consumer boom

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

THE MODELS are rather chunky, with none of the lithe grace of those on Parisian catwalks, but the crowds of Chinese out-of-town shoppers and penniless peasants looking for work do not seem to care, gaping at the fashion show outside the No. 1 Department Store in Wangfujing, Peking's main shopping street.

"Beautiful, really beautiful," breathes one rosy-cheeked woman, carrying a large shopping bag stuffed with her purchases. She was looking at sweaters modelled in the vivid colours many Chinese prefer — brilliant purple and vibrant green — by the girls, who may have been recruited from the ranks of sales assistants in the store.

A stroll down Wangfujing, or "the well of the Prince's mansion", as the Regent Street of the Chinese capital is known, invariably provides a touchstone of what's new in China. And, in the past, while most Chinese came to window shop, yesterday they were on a spending spree.

Inside the No. 1 department store, once spartan but recently renovated, crowds gathered round a new hand-held sewing machine, and at a photography stall where one can have one's portrait superimposed on a mug.

For a Times correspondent, Wangfujing has a poignant meaning. In earlier times, this was called Morrison Street, after Australian-born Dr George Morrison, Peking correspondent of *The Times* from 1887 until his death in 1920. *The Times* has had a correspondent in the Chinese capital for most of the past century.

Further down the street, the Foreign Languages Bookstore used to sell political tracts and the works of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Nowadays, while you can still buy the latest opus of the writings of China's ailing senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, the bookstore also stocks *Princess Diana, a biography of the Princess of Wales*.

The works of local painters are on sale here, and instead of the landscapes and happy peasants of yesterday, full-length portraits of girls display all their charms; full frontal nudity and public hair, still banned in Japan, is acceptable in China nowadays.

A pharmacy near by stocks antler horn, monkey glands and other aphrodisiacs, as before, but now there are also condoms on sale with pictures of sexy Western girls or amorous Asian couples on the packets.

The vast indoor East Wind market, a Peking landmark since the beginning of the century, is sadly gone, knocked down for a shopping development by a Hong Kong company that one hopes will keep its bazaar-like ambience.

Nowadays, the main stop for Chinese visitors is McDonald's at the south end of Wangfujing, not far from Tiananmen Square. Shops selling electronic goods, CDs and karaoke videos are doing a brisk trade.

George Morrison, Peking correspondent, in 1893

## US puts optimistic spin on China talks

BY JAMES PRINGLE

WARREN Christopher, the US Secretary of State, left Peking yesterday saying that differences with the Chinese had narrowed after three days of talks in which the American side sought to link the renewal of China's most favoured nation trading status with progress on human rights.

Mr Christopher was, however, putting a brave face on what essentially had been a stinging rebuff to American pressure. The talks, in fact, offered little succour to thousands of political prisoners or other dissidents.

"I came to China to try to ensure the Chinese side understand the importance of human rights to the US in connection with the [most favoured nation] treaty," Mr Christopher said. "The Chi-

nese Foreign Minister said that the Chinese side understands the views I have expressed." This was clearly putting an optimistic spin as possible on Chinese attitudes.

Letters, page 21

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## Pretoria reassures Buthelezi he will not share fate of deposed homeland leader

## Mangope clings to fond hope of power

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

CHIEF Lucas Mangope is still refusing to accept that he has been evicted from the presidency of Bophuthatswana, while Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi is speculating publicly about a similar fate.

Yesterday Chief Mangope said he still considered himself the leader of the homeland and was considering legal action against the South African government for deposing him at the weekend.

The South African government, African National Congress and South African Communist Party have looted political power in Bophuthatswana, he said in Kimberley. "I am legally and constitutionally still the president of Bophuthatswana."

President de Klerk went out of his way yesterday to assure Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and president of the Inkatha Freedom Party, that the government had no plans to turn him out of office. Chief Buthelezi complained: "What they did to Bophuthatswana they want to do to KwaZulu." But President de Klerk insisted: "There is no basis whatsoever for such an accusation. In terms of the interim constitution and the Electoral Act, the KwaZulu government can govern until the election comes." But Mr de Klerk warned that the Inkatha decision not to participate "creates a dangerous situation".

Yesterday, however, Ben Ngubane, a senior member of Inkatha, said that the Zulu-based party could still take part. Chief Mangope is reckoned by constitutional lawyers to be correct. There is no law enabling the South African gov-

ernment to march into his nominally independent homeland, and seize control.

The South African Foreign Ministry justified their action yesterday by saying that since a government is granted recognition if it is in effective control of a country, "the converse also applies". A ministry spokesman said: "If a regime has lost effective control, recognition can be withdrawn." Tom Bennett, professor of public law at the University of Cape Town said yesterday that in international law, once recognition has been given it cannot be withdrawn.

But Professor Bennett also pointed out that Chief Mangope would not be able to take legal action against the South African government because of the "act of state" doctrine in South African law, under which the validity of state actions may not be challenged in local courts. Neither would the deposed president nor any of his former ministers challenge the takeover in international law, since the international courts only recognise cases brought by governments.

The seizure also illustrates the extent to which the power of the transitional executive council (TEC) has grown, and with it the council's readiness to challenge the government.

President de Klerk yesterday had to make it plain that the takeover was not simply the work of the ANC through the TEC. He said his government was in control of the crisis from the first signs of possible trouble in the homeland.

R. W. Johnson, page 20

## Neo-Nazi chief predicts chaos

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN VENTERSDORP

EUGENE TerreBlanche, the leader of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), speaking at Ventersdorp, Western Transvaal, has given his own version of his men's humiliating withdrawal from Bophuthatswana and the killing last week of three of his men who were begging for mercy.

Flanked by his khaki-clad general staff, he said he had sent "a few hundred" AWB paramilitaries to Mmabatho, the capital, at the request of President Mangope, now deposed. When the AWB men were later asked to leave, they were given assurances that they would be safely escorted. Instead they were ambushed.

Referring to the African National Congress, he insisted that Afrikaners would not

accept a "Communist or unitary state" after the election and issued a warning that confrontation lay ahead. "We are heading for chaos, not an election," he said. "We are heading for a revolution, not peace and prosperity."

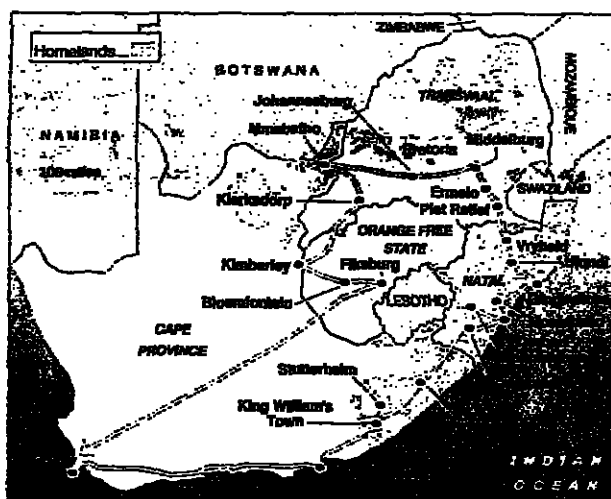
The outcome of this revolutionary war would determine the borders of a future, volkstaat (Afrikaner homeland), he said. The areas belonging to the "Boer nation", he added, were laid down in the Conventions of Bloemfontein and Sand River in the 1850s. These historic agreements made the Boer republics the sole property of the Afrikaner nation. The area included the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Northern Natal, with Richard's Bay as its harbour.



Aryl Noch, a member of the Mitchells Plain neighbourhood watch scheme, believes in a show of force Photograph: SIMON WALKER

## Coloured vigilantes look to De Klerk as tested guardian of law and order

In the first of a series, Sam Kiley in Mitchells Plain assesses the mood of South Africa before the country's first democratic elections next month



their leaders. Pastor Danny Brown, was threatened with a pistol by a gangster. They all said they would vote for President de Klerk's party in the country's first democratic elections next month.

The Western Cape offers the National Party its only realistic, though marginal, chance of taking a province from the ANC, which is expected to win at least 65 per cent of the vote nationwide. Integral to its plans are the Coloureds it forced from central Cape Town, along with all non-whites, into the barren dunes of the Cape Flats during the 1960s and 1970s under the now defunct Group Areas Act.

caravan are a weekly occurrence, gang killings and ram-paging nights of house-breaking a daily menace.

In neighbouring black areas the party has relied on old-fashioned intimidation to coerce people into voting for it by appointing notorious war lords, such as Johnson Ngobongwane, leader of the violent *widoeke* (white headscarves) in Crossroads, and the former mayor of Khayelitsha, Muli Hooz, as its candidates. Police intelligence documents allege that another war lord associated with the Nationalists, Nkosakaya Gombinga, has been supplied with weapons by South African military intelligence officers working in the homeland of Ciskei to form an anti-ANC front.

But the National Party does not need to frighten the 1.5 million Coloureds of Cape Town. The *skollies* (gangsters), youths in units identical to those of the South Central district in Los Angeles, have done that for them.

With just 250 police for the entire Cape Flats population, groups such as the Nice Time Kids and the Sexy Boys are beyond the law — so much so that the ANC has demanded that the South African Defence Force be deployed in Manenberg, a smaller Coloured area, to protect it against random carjacking and murder. "The NP is very strong here because we feel that they are the party of law

and order. They have experience of government and if given the chance will get tough on the thugs," said Pastor Brown.

A mixture of Malay, African, white and Hottentot, the Coloureds' first language is Afrikaans. Some are blond or blue-eyed, like Mr Noch. Under apartheid's racial categorisation, they were deemed one down from whites, and one up from blacks.

The fear of a future under an ANC-dominated government of national unity finds expression in racism unheard of outside extreme right-wing Afrikaner circles.

As the Sexy Boys' blue Chevrolet van thundered around in the background, and gangsters eyed *The Times* hire car and its (white) contents, Caroline Kingsley, who to the uninitiated looked entirely negro, spelled it out. "I look black but I'm not a kaffir," she said pointing to the black township near by. "They're dirty and criminal and they will come across here to take our jobs and our houses. If Nelson [Mandela, president of the ANC] came into this area, we'd shoot him."

Later Mario Wanza, the Coloured ANC representative in Manenberg looked anxiously out of his window as the van continued its growling patrols. "Apartheid has conditioned us all," he sighed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Akihito 'to visit Pearl Harbor'

Tokyo: Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will visit Pearl Harbor during a trip to the United States in June, the leading Japanese daily, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, reported yesterday. It said the Japanese imperial couple would go to the USS Arizona National Memorial at the naval base on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, where the Japanese launched the surprise attack on December 7, 1941, that ignited the Pacific War.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. The newspaper said the Japanese Cabinet would soon finalise details of the June 10-25 trip, the first to America by a reigning Japanese monarch since Emperor Akihito's late father, Hirohito, on the throne in wartime, went there in 1975. (Reuters)

## Embassy blast

Beirut: A grenade was thrown from a car at the British embassy on Sunday, Lebanese police said. It exploded ten yards from a wall of the compound, causing a little damage but no casualties. (Reuters)

## Togo victors

Lomé: Opponents of President Eyadema of Togo won a 43-38 majority in last month's parliamentary elections, limiting presidential power and obliging Mr Eyadema to appoint a Prime Minister from the ranks of his rivals. (Reuters)

## Death of writer

Paris: Abdelkader Alloula, 55, the Algerian playwright and actor, died in the Paris hospital to which he was flown in a coma after being shot in the head by suspected Muslim fundamentalist gunmen in Algeria last week. (Reuters)

## Kim foe jailed

Seoul: A South Korean appeals court, upholding a lower court ruling, sentenced Park Chul Un, an opposition MP, former minister and political foe of President Kim Young Sam, to 18 months' jail on bribery charges and fined him \$500,000. (AP)

## Banjo king dies

New Orleans: Danny Barker, banjo champion and virtuoso guitarist whose career spanned 60 years, has died of cancer, aged 85. Although too weak to play, he reigned as Mardi Gras king of the "Krewes de Vieux" on January 29. (AP). Obituary, page 23

## Winning note

Beverly Hills: *The Piano*, by Jane Campion, was named best original screenplay and *Schindler's List*, by Steven Zaillian from Thomas Kennedy's novel, best adapted screenplay at the Writers' Guild of America awards ceremony. (AP)

## Fatal bus crash

Delhi: A bus plunged off a bridge into the Kalya river in western India, killing 64 people and injuring 11, news agencies said. The cause of the accident was not clear. (AP)

INDIA

THOUSANDS OF MILES OF COASTLINE gently washed by the waters of three seas, India has a beach for everybody.

Some are drawn to the scattering of treasured islands that form the Lakshadweep and Andamans. Others to the first class resorts of Kovalam in Kerala and Fisherman's Cove near Madras. And many find Goa irresistibly attractive. But all appreciate that in India the beach is just the beginning.

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First Couple ride Whitewater storm with display of business as usual

## Clintons look to prosecutor report for vindication

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY Clinton determinedly followed a business-as-usual schedule yesterday while White House strategists waited to see if the political storm over Whitewater would be calmed by her weekend admission of mistakes, but not misdeeds.

The First Lady flew from Washington to Colorado for a typically busy day of forums dealing with health care reform, the issue that she has made her own. President Clinton, equally keen to divert attention from Whitewater, plunged gratefully into the minutiae of the Group of Seven jobs summit in Detroit.

For all her professional composure, however, Mrs Clinton was described by aides as feeling angry, vulnerable and bewildered over the battering she has taken from political foes and the American media. The barrage has left her ruefully contrasting the rapturous welcome she received initially, even from the Republicans who are now disparaging her. Still, she rallied her staff with a pep talk reminding them to focus on the real problems of Americans that they came to Washington to resolve.

Time and Newsweek went on sale across the country bearing the interviews Mrs Clinton granted to the magazines in the hope of staunching criticism about her Whitewater role. This route was chosen by the White House in preference to an earlier plan that was given serious consideration for both the Clintons to make a tell-all television appearance.

The TV idea has been shelved to determine the impact of the magazine interviews, both of which were widely quoted in newspapers and on news programmes yesterday.

If all goes well, the next stage in the White House strategy is to hope that Robert Fiske, the special prosecutor,

will determine that there was no criminal intent in the meetings between White House staff members and Treasury officials to discuss the government's investigation of Madison Guaranty, the failed Arkansas savings bank that lay at the heart of Whitewater's complex web of dealings.

Mr Fiske has indicated that he will publish an interim report on this phase of his enquiries. If he absolves the officials, the White House will be in a position to claim that there has been no wrongdoing since Mr Clinton became President, and therefore no need for the congressional hearings demanded by Republicans. It is a risky strategy that could be undone in an instant by any further startling revelations. Mrs Clinton's interview was granted with the proviso that no questions touched on issues in the special prosecutor's realm. This exemption barred any discussion of her overlapping and controversial roles as lawyer and investor when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas. But she did say that the Clintons were prepared to pay back taxes if it turns out that they had underpaid on the Whitewater investment in which they claim to have lost nearly \$69,000 (£46,000), a disputed figure. Their personal lawyer, David Kendall, has apparently told the couple that he has uncovered tax errors and ineligible deductions, but no serious violations of the law.

Mr Fiske's fate: The political future of Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House ways and means committee, is at stake today when he fights a Democratic primary in Chicago. His skills are indispensable if the President's embattled health care plan is to be enacted.

Resignation move, page 1



Vice-President Gore, left, President Clinton and Lloyd Bentsen, Treasury Secretary, at the G7 jobs conference yesterday

## Clinton tells G7 to focus on unemployment

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday warned the Group of Seven nations of a "downward spiral of protectionism and lower growth" if the leading industrial nations fail to lower the rates of unemployment. In his opening speech to the first G7 jobs conference in Detroit, the President called on the G7 countries to adopt policies specifically designed to

help reduce unemployment, including measures to increase the flexibility of labour markets, and to improve the standards of education and training.

He said that the G7 previously had been preoccupied with "the great issues of macroeconomics and global finance." Today we are beginning a serious conversation about the economic well-being of ordinary people in each of these countries. This is an historic, important and long overdue moment. "The summit

reflects the President's personal interest in and passion for a subject on which he campaigned heavily in 1992. While the summit will not drive the Whitewater affair off the front pages, the White House hopes that it could give the President an opportunity to present the improvement in the economy and especially the fall in unemployment as a success of his policies.

Detroit summit, page 25

## Columbus cleared of taking TB to Americas

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

COLUMBUS has been exonerated from blame for introducing tuberculosis to the New World by American scientists who analysed material from the lungs of a woman found at a burial site in Peru.

The site is known to have been used by the Chiribaya, a farming community that flourished between AD1000 and AD1300. The woman's body had been spontaneously mummified, and intact lungs were found when her chest cavity was opened.

The scientists, led by Dr Arthur Aufderheide of the University of Minnesota, removed a section of lung that showed signs of damage and extracted DNA from it. By multiplying the amount of the genetic material, they were able to show that sections from the damaged area were identical to those of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

The discovery shows that the bacterium responsible for the disease was present in pre-Columbian America. Carbon dating of the woman's liver revealed that she lived about 1,000 years ago, five centuries before Columbus arrived. "This provides the most specific evidence possible for the pre-Columbian presence of human tuberculosis in the New World," the scientists say in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The evidence will not altogether surprise anthropologists. The hunchback deformities found in many ancient New World skeletons pointed to the existence of TB. Microbiological tests on lung material from an 800-year-old body of a child from Peru had also suggested TB, but these tests cannot unequivocally distinguish the TB bacterium.

No such ambiguity attaches to the DNA tests. The experiments also suggest TB has not changed in 1,000 years: the DNA sequences are identical to those of modern TB.

So, while it is known that Columbus did take diseases with him to the Americas, and brought some home as well, it seems he can be acquitted of introducing the most lethal of all — TB has killed a billion people in recorded history and, it would seem, millions more in earlier times.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Dr Neal Blewett

## Envoy to London named

London: Australia announced yesterday that Neal Blewett, a minister in the Labour government for 10 years and a weighty figure in Australian politics, is to be the next Australian High Commissioner in London (Michael Binyon writes).

Dr Blewett, a former Rhodes scholar, is the most senior Australian to be sent to London for many years. He arrives next month, succeeding Richard Smith.

## Yeltsin break

Moscow: Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, is maintaining control of Russia's nuclear forces while President Yeltsin is on holiday by the Black Sea. (Reuters)

## Spy named

Moscow: A senior Russian arms industry official accused of spying for Britain, has been named by Interfax news agency as Vadim Sinitov. (Reuters)

## Feud deaths

Seven people were killed and two wounded by a hand grenade in Bender, southern Moldova. Police blamed feuding gangsters. (Reuters)

## Child's play

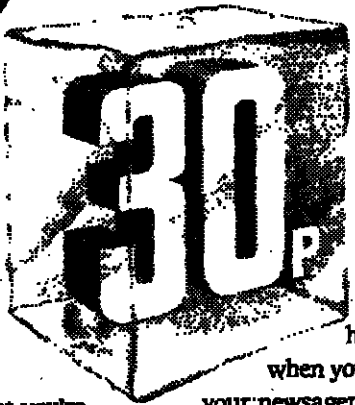
Paris: Xavier Gouin, a French boy aged 12, said to be Europe's youngest pilot, has flown the English Channel in a light plane from Lydd in Kent to Le Touquet. (Reuters)

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THE TIMES

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# Ask the AA.

## Losers in the viewing category

The TV audience deserves a prize for enduring awards ceremonies

Drum roll rumbles with theatrical expectation. The viewer looks up from her Sunday night knitting, thinks "Ay-ay, what's this?" And an unseen commentator takes his cue.

"And now! Speaking in a tone of controlled mania! From an enormously important proscenium theatre in Belfast! Where cameras can't show individual audience members, which is just as well because there are no famous faces here anyway! Yes, it's Sunday night at the Bafta Production Awards!"

MUSIC strikes up irrelevantly with a showbizzy theme, while a top actor-manager with Belfast origins (Kenneth Branagh) takes position at left-hand podium, and a less famous actress in ill-advised frock (Amanda Donohoe) takes position on the right.

ACTOR-MANAGER (relaxed): Blah, blah, evening, delighted, honour, blah, joke.

Audience: Ho ho, big laugh. ACTRESS (anxious): Hello, joke, stumble, blah.

Audience: Ha ha, smaller laugh.

Viewer (at home): Oh good, I like awards. I like considering which of the shortlisted programmes most deserves to win. I like seeing the clips. I love the sense of occasion...

ACTOR-MANAGER: Sorry to butt in, but there's lots to get through this evening.

stacks of boring production prizes plus some rather important artistic awards confusingly mixed in, too, so let's get straight down to it with this ten-minute tribute to Irish movies!

Viewer: What? Audience: Huh?

Cut to seemingly endless montage of mute film clips, with musical accompaniment — *The Field*, *Mona Lisa*, *Hear My Song*, *The Quiet Man*, *Ryan's Daughter*, *The Commitments*, *The Dead* — during which the perplexed viewer pluckily invents a new game called "Spot the Adrian Dunbar", but generally gets fed up.

ACTOR-MANAGER: Now, here's a popular chap to give the drama serial award.

PATRICK MALAHIDE: Evening, evening, feeble joke at own expense. And the winner is...

*Prime Suspect 3*.

Three people from the auditorium leap up, walk smartly to the stage, grab their gongs, and a clip from *Prime Suspect 3* is shown immediately, to

prevent them making speeches. No time for awkward questions such as "Why not *The Buddha of Suburbia*, or *Mr Wroe's Virgins*, both of which showed far more spark and originality than *Prime Suspect 3*?" No time to consider why shortlisted programmes are not repeated in the weeks prior to the awards. Instead, a Top Ulster Comedian has taken the podium to relate ancient jests!

Viewer: I don't believe it. Comedian: I took my wife to the Chamber of Horrors, and the attendant said, tell your wife to keep moving, we're stock-taking.

Audience: Enormous laugh. Comedian: It's the way I tell 'em. My dog's got no nose.

Audience: Rapturous applause.

Comedian: Sorry to break the mood, I could go on all night, but here's an award for Best Children's Programme (Fiction/Entertainment), which goes to something called *Old Bear Stories*.

Now, at about this juncture, the viewer grows restive. She

likes to get choked up during awards ceremonies; she likes to feel happy for the winners, or incensed at inequities; she thinks creative people deserve a decent dinner; and she also thinks it odd that no one has yet explained why tonight's "production awards" include

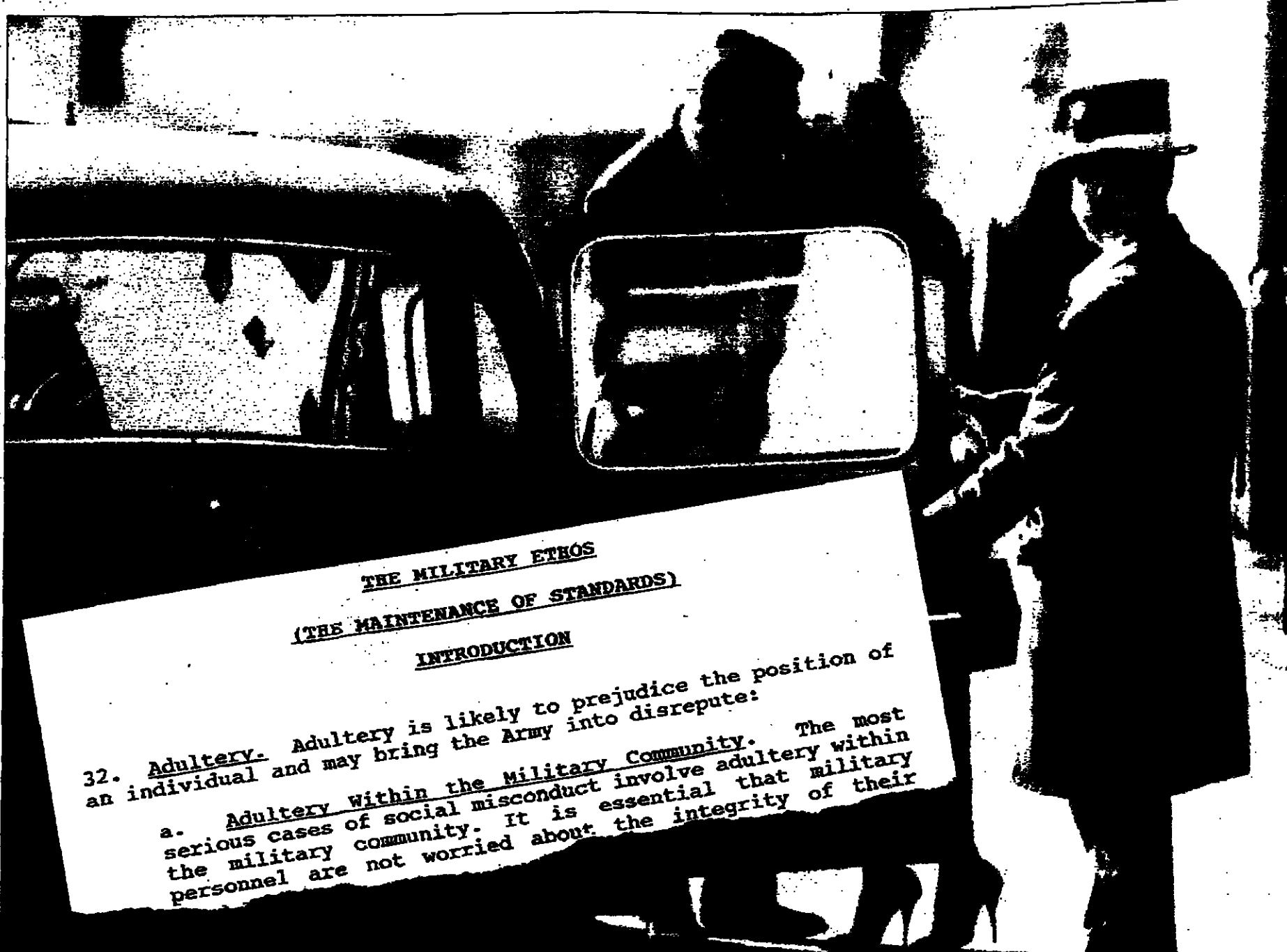
Best Children's Programme (Fiction/Entertainment) and Best Drama Serial, while ostensibly quite similar categories such as Best Children's Programme (Factual) and Best Drama Series will be featured a month later, at a separate ceremony in Piccadilly.

The viewer switches off, in a huff, determined to read the list of winners in the papers next day. There will be two more Bafta ceremonies in April, and it seems wise to preserve one's strength. But meanwhile you can't help wondering where it will end. In the year's only celebration of quality television — prizes for Clive Gordon's brilliantly incisive *Bosnia* documentary *The Unforgiving* (Channel 4), and for ITN's coverage of the storming of the Moscow White House — why stop at "take my wife" jokes? Why not hire a pub hypoetist in a frilly shirt and get Ken and Amanda down on all fours, saying "Oink"?



LYNNE TRUSS

## Libby Purves hails the honourable resignation of a man trapped by a snake



The excerpt from the discipline and standards paper and one of the photographs of Sir Peter Harding and Bienvenida Buck that was to lead to his resignation

I doubt that there is anyone — not one wife, not one feminist, not one hater of the military — who does not feel some compassion for Sir Peter Harding. This is a career RAF man, risen through the ranks since his National Service: well liked, professionally acute, successful in his difficult role as Chief of the Defence Staff. He had an affair. It ended. The woman he thought so special turned out to be a kissing, telling, selling snake. Because she did not have quite enough proof, she entrapped him into a taped lunch at the Dorchester: he talked freely, and trustingly kissed his old flame goodbye on the step in perfect lighting conditions while a photographer snapped away. How they must have blessed their luck and his trustfulness!

Perhaps they reflected on how fortunate it is that servicemen are brought up with a code of honour which makes it hard to envisage close friends making such a sale. High codes of honour sometimes bring naivety: you could never feel the same compassion for a politician who was that easy to trap. Politicians live in a duplicitous world, always half-expecting betrayal from those closest to them. A serviceman does not. The whole point of the military ethos is that only the enemy is to be feared. Your companions do not let you down.

Now, without being asked, Sir Peter has resigned: with grace, with regret, without the clinging-on and brazen-out which a politician would have tried. "I have not acted," he says, "in a manner that befits the holder of the post of Chief of the Defence Staff. I therefore believe

that the only honourable thing for me to do is to resign my post." By the sound of him, he would have done the same even if the Army — now part of his responsibilities — had not published last October its strict discipline and standards paper.

For a civilian, this makes rather inspiring reading: its intention, the Adjutant General wrote at the time, is "not the continuance of outdated Victorian moral standards or a desire to set an example for society", but merely to keep the service working smoothly, with teamwork, cohesion and trust.

The Army, said the paper, cannot remain separate from society, but should not follow trends that will undermine its morale. Adultery within the military community is the worst, because of its effect on the morale of families; but it can "jeopardise the status of an officer" even if the affair is outside the military community.

This was one look at Bienvenida Buck, the vamp of Valencia, in her white satin cocktail-dress and stilettos and Joanna

Lumley hairstyle, confirms that this is no Leading Wren. The services, in short, have no place for adulterous senior officers: the paper made that very, very clear indeed. Sir Peter is the first victim since, but there will be others. Yet the irony is that top soldiers have always seemed to need the escape into fantasy and romance which is provided by such semi-professional vamps.

Ever since Samson let Delilah cut his hair and Antony married with Cleopatra, there has been a long historical and literary tradition of such affairs. Napoleon had Josephine. Nelson had Lady Hamilton. Lord Cardigan kept his mistress offshore on his yacht during much of the Crimean War, and Wellington, God bless him, brushed off the blackmailing publisher of Harriette Wilson's memoirs with "Publish and be damned". Even Kipling wrote of such liaisons in *Plain Tales from the Hills*. Today, when a decorous divorce and remarriage is perfectly possible, we can

see the same fever, the same mad heat and risk.

It is a classic pattern. On one side, you have the strong, publicly powerful man in middle or later life, bound by a code of honour which both supports and chafes him. On the other, a young woman who either spurns him and drives him to public foolishness, or accepts him into her bed, but means him no good at all. There's no fool like an old fool, they say, but the fool need not even be so old: 50 is plenty. Nor is this entirely about sex: it is about love, and dreams, and transcendence. It happens to judges, to industrialists, to any highly disciplined, restrained man whose career has blocked off his human need for fantasy and romance and nonsense. That this need will return, and build itself a goddess to worship, is the abyss which always yawns at the feet of such men. It is probably the reason why so many of them are desperately wary of women as colleagues or as club members. Queer cattle, women. Lead a chap into all sorts of trouble. Risky to have around.

Sometimes it is a comrade-woman who gets beneath their armour, as in the recent cases of senior military men entangled in affairs in the former Yugoslavia. More often it is the fantasy-woman, the ultimately feminine fluff teasing blonde like Bienvenida Buck. If you are a polished, restrained, dutiful man whose life has been bestowed on Queen and Country, you have probably made a suitable marriage to a good sport of a wife: a faithful brick who can cope with absences, secretaries, risk and the petty humiliations of an army wife's life.

The kind of tough practicality a long-serving soldier's wife develops is the antithesis of the cloying femininity of the Bienvenida tendency. In the letter from Sir Peter which she so shamefully sold, his language is adolescent: dazzled, protective, worshipping. He took her for something precious, because she belonged to that old-fashioned sisterhood of *femmes fatales* whose appeal depends on the fact that they believe they are precious. Or, at least, have a high market value. In this case, about £175,000. Max Clifford, the publicist to whom Lady Buck took her story, makes a case for her having done it out of fright, convinced she was a fearful "security risk", and sold the story to the *News of the World* only out of an earnest desire "to save his life" and "to put it all behind her".

To borrow from Wellington again, I don't know what effect these women have on the other sex. But by God, they frighten me.

## Kiss of the fantasy-woman

Jack Nicholson's famously raucous good times may be dwindling, but he retains the power to enthrall the public

## Why America adores its Jack the lad

Jack Nicholson's girlfriend of six years has left him for a younger man. Most of his recent films have been flops. At the end of the month he will appear in court on charges of assault and vandalism after smashing the roof and windscreen of a fellow driver's Mercedes with a golf club. If found guilty he could face two years in prison. The good times, which the movie star has raucously celebrated for the past 25 years, seem to be coming to an end.

All the same, if this is so, Nicholson has had a better run than most. He has a home video collection to be proud of, including *Easy Rider*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *Chinatown* and *The Shining*. He has his Oscar for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He is worth around \$50 million.

He has a paunch large enough to balance a tray of beers on, a hairline receding faster than Bill Clinton before the questions of the world's press, yet his list of former girlfriends could double as that of the world's most beautiful women.

Last week, when Hollywood honoured him with a Life Achievement Award, his table was filled with former lovers including Faye Dunaway and Candice Bergen, all gazing at him adoringly.

But even the best parties must come to an end. Is Nicholson, 56, outstaying his

welcome? Not according to Patrick McGilligan, who has just published the star's unauthorized biography, *Jack's Life* (£18.99, Hutchinson). "Everyone is looking at the golf club incident as a symbol of the unravelling of Jack's career," he says. "But the wonderful thing about Jack is that you never know what will happen to him next. He does a flop, and then it's followed by an artistic triumph. He has a spectacular break-up with his girlfriend, and then you see them back together again."

Nicholson, however, seems less confident than his acolytes. Nancy Collins, a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair* magazine who interviewed Nicholson for this month's edition, will not say that he is depressed ("We overuse that word in America"), but admits that he is going through "an emotionally tender time".

This tenderness, she says, has been caused by Rebecca Broussard, the 31-year-old mother of his two youngest children. Broussard, a little-known model, met the movie star when she was only 26; her pregnancy was the final straw for Anjelica Huston, who had put up with Nicholson's foibles for nearly 20 years.

Now the tables have turned on Nicholson, who admits that he has been devastated by Broussard's departure. "It's the hardest lesson," he says in



Jack Nicholson: a childhood short on new-man role models

*Vanity Fair*. "You're left, you're abandoned. I'm still in love with her."

Nicholson has many more such touching confessions to make to Miss Collins, as he chain-smokes his way through a packet of Marlboro. "I'm still in love with all the women I ever loved," he sighs at one point. Later he confides: "I'm very shy. I'm not that easy to see, you know."

Poor Jack, you might think,

until you imagine him saying that line in one of his films — to Shirley Maclaine, perhaps, in *Terms of Endearment*.

Nicholson identifies with the hero of Robert James Waller's truly dreadful novel, *The Bridges of Madison County*. This man has "too much testosterone for society to control. His kind of male is going to be obsolete and I can identify with that," he says. He must feel bereft at the treach-

ery of Warren Beatty, his friend and fellow Lohrario, who has abandoned the boys' nights out for the company of his wife and baby.

This, Miss Collins says, is something Nicholson cannot do. "He's still trying to figure out how to be totally dependent and free at the same time. He's very much in love with Rebecca, but she is from a younger generation and Jack cannot get used to some of its concepts. His theory is there used to be days when men were men and women were women and that has shifted."

Nicholson's background certainly lacks new-man role models. No one is quite sure who his father was. He grew up in New Jersey believing his grandmother was his mother and his mother — a dancing girl — was his sister, and only found out the truth after both had died.

Nicholson insulates himself from the hurt with endless games of golf, boozing dinners with his loyal friends, and mandatory appearances behind dark glasses at the Los Angeles Lakers basketball games. He doesn't pretend to be more than a popcorn-

munching rogue and that, says Mr McGilligan, is why Americans love him. "They root for him to have a good time," he says. "His flamboyance only endears him to us."

Miss Collins agrees. "There isn't much fun in America any more and there isn't romance in the air. Jack is a romantic figure. He's not out there jogging 100 miles a week, he's still smoking, he's not apologising for anything. He's never had a facelift, he's wonderfully hedonistic. Americans live vicariously through him."

"With Nicholson what you see is what you get, as opposed to people like De Niro and Hoffman, who are chameleons," says Mr McGilligan. Whether you see the Chopin-loving labourer of *Five Easy Pieces* telling the morose waitress to "Hold the chicken — between your knees", or the "horny little devil" of the *Witches of Eastwick*, or, as in his latest film *Wolf*, the publisher who finds himself turning into a wolf, Nicholson is telling America to loosen up, question everything, and refuse to settle down.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

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# Can you stop your husband snoring?

By the age of 35 one in five men and women are snorers. The effects of this condition on matrimonial harmony are so well documented that it has become almost a music hall joke. But for many, snoring is not something to laugh about. Its impact on a couple's life can be disastrous.

At its most extreme, snoring can be a symptom of a serious condition, known as sleep apnoea, in which narrowing of the airways is so severe that the sufferer can stop breathing completely for up to 60 seconds at a time.

Once snorers and their partners were simply left to cope with the problem and fight it out between themselves as best they could. But that is changing, and some NHS clinics now run sleep clinics which offer help to sufferers from the most debilitating forms of the condition.

Snoring falls into three broad categories. The first, and most common, affects about 20 per cent of us and is more a problem for the person who has to sleep with the snorer than for the snorer. The second category, which affects up to one in 25 men and up to one in 50 women, is a syndrome known as "snoring-induced arousal". Dr John Stradling, a consultant chest physician who runs the sleep clinic at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, says the main difference between this and the first category is that sufferers are constantly being slightly awakened by their snoring without knowing it.

"They wake up in the morning thinking they have had a restful night's sleep, but in fact it is as if the telephone has rung 50 to 100 times. Because this happens every night, the sleep loss is cumulative and they find themselves dropping off to sleep at inappropriate moments during the day."

Both these types of snoring are caused by an extension of a natural phenomenon. When we sleep, all our muscles relax, including our airways. In snorers, however, the airways narrow more than usual, and the snoring sound is made by

It wrecks marriages and delights comedians — but besides being noisy, snoring can be downright dangerous, says Aileen Ballantyne

the vibration of the walls of the throat and soft palate.

The difference between snoring-induced arousal and the third and most serious type of snoring, sleep apnoea, is one of degree. During sleep, the sufferer can stop breathing for up to a minute. These periods of silence are punctuated by raucous crescendos of snoring. The interruption to sleep is that much greater and the snorers are very likely to drop off to sleep during the day. Sleep apnoea affects about one in 200 people.

Some studies suggest that snorers of any sort are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure and are more susceptible to heart attacks than other people, but Dr Stradling believes that a much greater risk comes from drifting off at the wheel.

"Many people who snore are also overweight or drinking too much, so it is difficult to separate these risk factors from the snoring itself. But many come for treatment in the first place because they have nearly fallen asleep while driving their car," he says.

One treatment for snorers with badly interrupted sleep is to wear a small triangular shaped mask, similar to a scuba diving mask, at night. Known as continuous positive airways pressure (CPAP), air is supplied to the mask under slight pressure, which ensures that the airways stay open.

A study by researchers at Edinburgh University compared those treated with CPAP and those given a placebo. Published in *The Lancet* earlier this month, it showed that the treatment does improve mental flexibility and vigilance. The researchers found this to be the case even though, on average, the sufferers kept

the mask on only for 3.7 hours a night.

CPAP masks, which are uncomfortable and which have to be worn every night, are unlikely to be tolerated by most snorers, whose only symptom is the noise their partners have to endure. In cases where the noise threatens to break up a relationship, sufferers can be offered an operation to remove the soft palate and widen the throat. This drastic surgery, known as uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, is performed on about 1,000 people a year. Dr Stradling estimates.

Although the operation removes the noise generator, it does not improve the underlying cause, which is the narrowing of the airways and over-relaxation of the muscles.

The surgery therefore has no effect on the tiredness induced by snoring-induced arousal, nor does it prevent sleep apnoea. Recovery is painful and the patient has to relearn drinking and eating.

"This is major surgery for a minor problem — I have seen several sad cases of men who have had the operation to save their marriage," Dr Stradling says. "It stops the snoring — if it ever existed in the first place — but then their wife still says 'I'm not coming back to share a bed with you, you still make funny noises.'"

## SNORING: THE RISK FACTORS

- Being overweight.
- Men with a collar size of 17 or over are more likely to snore due to pressure on the airways from fat in the neck.
- Drinking alcohol after 6 pm.
- Suffering from any type of nose blockage.



Narrowing of the airways can be so severe that some sufferers can stop breathing completely for up to a minute

# He wears the same clothes as his friends. He goes to the same parties as his friends.

# How do you stop him taking drugs with his friends?

If you think about drugs, the chances are you think of shady underworld dealers, hanging around on street corners.

In fact, many teenagers first try drugs because they're offered them by one of their friends.

At that age, the approval of their friends means a lot. Wearing the right training shoes, listening to the right music, doing the right things are all part of the normal process of growing up.

So how do you influence them during this difficult period? It isn't easy, but it is possible.

The first thing is to recognise that because they are growing up, you have to treat them more like grown ups. Threatening them or saying 'Don't take drugs because I tell you not to' won't work. The best way to approach the subject is to have a proper, calm chat about it.

Start by asking questions to find out what they think. (You'll find it much easier to change their attitudes if you know what they are first.)

Ask them about the pressure they are put under by friends. Perhaps there were other instances where they were pushed into doing things they later regretted. If they see for themselves the similarity between that situation and being pushed into drug-taking, so much the better.

Do all you can to make them respect themselves for

not taking drugs. Talk to them about friends they admire who don't bow to the pressure of the group.

If you treat your child more like a responsible person they'll behave more like one. Ask for their opinions, and treat their answers with respect.

What you learn can only be useful, and you'll be helping to open up the channels of communication between your child and yourself.

You'll also find it helpful to be better-informed about the subject you're discussing. There is a free leaflet you can send for by filling in the coupon below. (It's also available from most libraries and doctors' surgeries, or by phoning free on 0800 555 777.)

And even if you do think your child might be under pressure from his or her friends to try drugs, don't become over-alarmed. If you handle the situation properly, your child will have another friend who can always be relied on to help them when they need it - you.

Please send me a copy of "Drugs & Solvents - you & your child?"

Name

(PLEASE PRINT)

Address

Postcode

Send for Drugs & Solvents, FREEPOST (BS4335), Bristol BS1 3YL. You can also phone free for your copy on 0800 555 777.

TIME



## Scratching out chickenpox

The once trivial childhood disease is creating worrying complications

THIRTY years ago the only anxiety the doctor felt when confronted with an apparent case of chickenpox was over the diagnosis, lest he was in fact harbouring a mild case of smallpox. The difference, other than in the severity of the disease, was that the rash of smallpox tended to attack the face and the extremities whereas chickenpox was centred on the chest and the face was relatively spared.

Smallpox has now been eradicated, but patients with the previously trivial chickenpox are more often suffering serious complications. The most recent available statistics show that in one year in the United Kingdom, 37 patients died of chickenpox. Of these seven were children, 14 were between the ages of 15 and 45, and 16 were over 45. Following the recent death of a nine-year-old child, doctors have been warned about those who are likely to be at special risk, and the precautions which should be taken to reduce the chance of a fatality.

Perhaps the most important reason for this increase in severity is that in more gregarious days, whether in the close community of the street, village or boarding school, children were infected early when their immunity transmitted from their mother was still strong. Now with smaller families, and less communal life, the first attack may not be until adolescence.

In the older age groups, the initial disease is more aggressive, and there is a higher risk of complications, whether from secondary bacterial infection, neurological complications such as meningitis, encephalitis, pneumonia or, more rarely, damage to the kidneys, heart or testes. Very occasionally, a generalised bleeding disorder may occur with destructive bleeding into the kidneys, damage to the liver or gangrene of the skin. A major cause of disaster, accounting for a third of all

deaths in all age groups, is infection in those who have quite correctly been prescribed immuno-suppressant drugs, including steroids, to combat such diseases as asthma and other allergic or inflammatory diseases (including ulcerative colitis or arthritis). Patients who have leukaemia, some other forms of malignant disease, or who have had a transplant, may also be immuno-compromised.

Fortunately there is no evidence that steroid skin creams or ointments correctly used, inhaled steroids, or rectal preparations predispose patients to complications of chickenpox.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) suggests that patients at risk of complications, particularly those taking steroids or who are immuno-compromised by disease, should be treated with acyclovir (Zovirax). It is essential that acyclovir is taken by mouth: the cream would be useless.

The CSM also advises doctors treating patients with steroids to be wary lest what seems to be a case of incipient flu later transpires to be the first, pre-rash signs of chickenpox. The sooner acyclovir is given, the greater the benefit.

An eczematous child would also benefit from acyclovir, but no doctor would prescribe it for an otherwise healthy child with chickenpox — they need calamine lotion, antihistamines to stop the itching, and a sharp pair of nail scissors to cut their nails to reduce the damage from scratching. However, any infected older brother or sister, or any adults to whom they may have given chickenpox, would have a less troublesome attack if they were prescribed acyclovir in the early stages.

A further precaution for immuno-compromised patients who have not previously had chickenpox, and who know that they have been in contact with a case, is to have immediate vaccination.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



# Backing off from a new Yugoslavia

R.W. Johnson on the fear that restrains South Africa's factions

Pictures of the cold-blooded execution in Mimbato of three Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) commandos amid the Bophuthatswana revolution have gone round the world. Few such acts of ruthlessness are, after all, deliberately committed before a watching gaggle of pressmen.

But perhaps the most significant fact about the killings is that the AWB leader, Eugene Terre-Blanche, has proclaimed that the disastrous raid was actually a famous victory.

Yet the killings constitute by far the greatest crisis in the AWB's history, and Terre-Blanche's leadership is now on the line. It was he, after all, who ordered the units into Bophuthatswana, in an attempt to shore up the tottering regime of his Freedom Alliance partner, President Lucas Mangope. Then, when the South African Defence Force had forced Terre-Blanche to accept that his men must be pulled out, he reneged on this agreement; so he bears a direct responsibility for the bloody events that followed.

The AWB now says that in all five of its men were killed in the operation and about 100 injured — and there is great concern in the ranks that some commandos may still be trapped in the homeland, so scrappy and undisciplined was their retreat. The whole operation was a shambles, and it has gravely compromised the blood-curdling image of military ferocity so assiduously cultivated by a thousand parades, marches and manoeuvres.

But the damage to Mr Terre-Blanche goes deeper. There, on the screens of the world, three of his men in full uniform were seen to beg a black man to spare their lives, an image of surrender and humiliation utterly at odds with the swaggering bravado such men have always affected in front of the cameras.

Mr Terre-Blanche has attempted with considerable success to combine the dire cadences of an Old Testament prophet with an ultra-machismo intended to make Rambo look wimpy. But there was no spitting defiance, no Rambo-like heroics about the way those men died. Even worse was the calm, almost disinterested way in which the black policeman shot the three men — with the air of an experienced ratcatcher despatching rodents.

Mr Terre-Blanche knows all too well the terrible symbolism that such an event has in the eyes of white South Africans: the whole point of the AWB is that it presents itself as the only organisation able to protect whites from such a fate.

So, imperatively, Mr Terre-Blanche must act. To do nothing risks the complete implosion of his movement — and already splits within the AWB seem possible. One of the three murdered men was an AWB general, Nick Fourie, and his bitter comrades on the Natal south coast have already begun to

hint at independent action. They are, they say, furious and ashamed that Fourie's body has not been recovered for his family, and they talk of organising a further raid into Bophuthatswana to recover it. But beyond that, of course, they want revenge.

For its part, the ANC has not been slow to exploit the powerful symbolism of these events, and has begun to rub salt in the AWB's wounds. Thus the ANC spokesman, Dumisani Makhaya, has already rounded on the AWB leader in Southern Natal, Mr Morion Christie. "We warn Mr Christie the ANC has the capacity to give a good hiding to people like him. When the day comes, he and his companions will curse the day their forefathers set foot on African soil. That day is fast approaching."

But if revenge, revenge against whom? Fourie's comrades naturally have the Bophuthatswana police in mind. But this makes no sense. Until the last week, this police force was effectively on the same side as the AWB, and the offending policeman has already been placed in detention by his colleagues, who clearly do not sympathise with his act, and indeed attempted to stop it.

But in any case, to revenge oneself on the obscure and murderous members of a remote homeland police force has little or no meaning in the eyes of the AWB's constituency. They would far rather see a bloody revenge exacted upon their mortal foes, the ANC-Communist alliance, or, just possibly, the de Klerk government, which as they see as the ultimate traitors to die with.

But quite apart from the consideration that these parties are not responsible, visibly at least, for the events in Bophuthatswana, the terrible danger of any such revenge is that South Africa might stumble into the Yugoslavian nightmare of ethnic reprisal and counter-reprisal. All parties know that this is the abyss below, and that if once the country falls into it, everything may be consumed in the ensuing holocaust. So the game is to stand on the very brink of the abyss and hurl taunts at one's enemies on the other side, seeking to derive a moral advantage by making them retreat in public. In practice this means relying on the Defence Force to restrain one's opponent and keep the peace.

Doubtless that force has already made it clear to Mr Terre-Blanche that it will not tolerate any act of AWB revenge. Fear of what might happen if he disobeys this warning is doubtless uppermost in his mind. But hurling taunts across the precipice is the most dangerous of games.

For the moment we must all be glad that he has chosen to try to bluster his way through with hollow claims of victory. Whether his bluster will be sufficient to hold his movement together, or what he will do if not, remains to be seen.

The game is to stand on the brink of the abyss and hurl taunts at the enemy



DUPED

## Farewell to old Bill

C.H. Rolph brought his integrity as a policeman to his long writing life

There was a man in the land of Uz, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And now he is dead, and I, like all his friends (we were a vast and varied company) cannot believe it. And considering that he was 92 when he died, that feeling must say something significant about his quality. And so it does: it says that he was one of those rare spirits whom the world cannot spare, and who, when they do slip away, leave a wound that can never be healed.

Such a man was Cecil Rolph Hewitt, a.k.a. C.H. Rolph, who answered to the name of Bill. He started out in the world as a policeman, following in his father's footsteps: Bill was a copper in the City of London police for exactly a quarter of a century, ending up as a chief inspector, and it was as a kind of chief inspector that he spent the rest of his life, chiefly inspecting an amazingly enormous variety of interests, causes, studies, themes and ideas. Bill was one of those who cannot pass an alleyway without going up to it to see where it leads to; he wrote a couple of dozen books, and even in those with a very specific subject he could rarely refrain from digression. As for conversation, it could, and did, range from the reason that window-cleaners' ladders taper towards the top to the glories of Rachmaninov and the idiosyncrasy of those (me, for instance) who cannot appreciate those glories.

Bill was naturally, considering his background, much involved in matters criminal, forensic and rehabilitative, but it was impossible to classify him; his writings on these subjects were deeply rooted in the huge and comprehensive range of his knowledge, but there was nothing pat, nothing predictable, nothing ideological, above all nothing dogmatic, in any of his work. I had the feeling that when he was about to embark on a new project in his special field, he would wipe out from his memory all the arguments he had ever deployed, leaving only the facts and a blank page to fill with understanding and originality.

Nor did he fit any template when the matter of crime and punishment was to be examined. His career as a policeman endowed him with a hearty scepticism; he knew all the devices of old laws and all the corners cut by the police, and his balances, though they would turn in the estimation of a hair, were never

loaded. Once, when I had written at length about a particular group of damnable corrupt and criminal police, he wrote me a letter of wonderful fairness and wisdom to point out, with infinite tact, that at one point I had come too close to implying — with insufficient evidence — that such behaviour was widespread.

His industry was prodigious. Apart from his substantial shelf of books, he wrote regularly and frequently for a wide variety of journals and newspapers, from the *New Law Journal* and the *TLS* to *Punch* and *The Author*, in addition to the job he did on the editorial staff of *The New Statesman*. (He wrote the biography of Kingsley Martin, and when I rebuked him for not being severe enough on the dreadful humbug that was one side of Martin, he said: "But I thought I had".) But his most amazing feat of continuity was to contribute a weekly *feuilleton* to the *Police Review* for some 60 years without any remission for good conduct.

The due to Bill was his abhorrence of cruelty. That sounds like something hardly strange in a good man. But for Bill it was something so deep and tenacious that it plainly shaped his life. In his autobiography, he gives an account of an instance of unthinking brutality: it was when he was still in the force, and he and a colleague were faced — they were not the only policemen who ever met the problem — with a woman beginning to give birth before the ambulance arrived to take her to hospital. Bill's oppo took off his belt and with it bound the woman's legs firmly together, explaining that that was a useful trick in the circumstances, and one which he recommended Bill to remember when it happened next time. In Bill's account of the episode there is a note of such horror that I have always thought that he must then and there have taken some kind of vow never to do anything like that to any human being.

He lived simply, unostentatiously, feelingly. I once made the appalling mistake of taking him to lunch at the Savoy. I could practically hear him wince. Yet there was nothing posed or flaunted in his chosen lifestyle; he was exactly what he seemed, and I have rarely known anyone who was so completely one thing to all men. Inevitably, and rightly, he sat on committees dealing with his special subjects. He was appointed a member of the Parole Board when it was set up, though he ended by declaring that it had failed. Yet Bill could never denounce anything or anybody, however culpable, without at least suggesting how things should instead have been arranged. He put forward the suggestion that parole should be based on the same principle as remission; that is, it should be automatic, after a fixed proportion of a sentence, in default of any offence against prison rules. (But the Moors murderers had by then served only ten years of their sentence, and even Merlyn Rees, who was the Home Secretary, and on occasion a bold one, could not nerve himself to institute so obviously sensible a rule.)

Bernard Levin

The longest and most anguished letter I ever had from Bill was in response to something I had written about anti-Semitism. He told of a woman friend of his who, very many years before, had been, or thought she had been, cheated by a Jew, and from then on condemned all Jews indiscriminately. At one point (this was before the Second World War), he tried to interest her in a private effort to help German Jews escape from Hitler, but she refused. Bill's point, however, was not that anti-Semitism is wrong and vile — it would be rather odd for anyone, let alone Bill, to feel that this needed pointing out; it was her irrationality, so intense that it had led her to turn her face away from such abomination as Nazism, that gave him pain.

That is not, incidentally, a metaphor. Bill really did feel sick and hurt

when he came up against the wrongs done by human beings to other human beings. Yet his natural disposition was a sunny one. He had a curious mien, which made him look gloomy, but his appearance belied his character, and he laughed freely and often.

He did much work for charitable and other worthy causes (he was of course a stalwart of the Howard League), and in one of his concerns I have myself been indirectly involved. The enterprise, named Calibre (nobody seems to know why), was founded with a very large library of books on audio-tape, lent free to blind people or those who for any other reason cannot read. My relevance to the story of Calibre is that Bill recorded all my books (Calibre's first rule was that there should be no abridgement for the organisation. I have always found it a strange and touching feeling to hear such a friend's voice coming out of the cassette, player speaking my own words. I treasure the memory of the day he rang me up shouting in triumph, "I've done it. I've done it. I've done it at last!" When he had calmed down a bit, I asked him what he had done. "The sentence, the sentence!" he shouted even more loudly, and this time I understood: there is a sentence in my book *Enthusiasms* which is 1,667 words long, with nothing but commas until, six words from the end, a semi-colon limps into sight. He had been wrestling with it for weeks, and had at last had a perfect run through the monstrous thing.

He did more than that for me, and I guess for others. Once, when I had just finished a book, he volunteered to proof-read it; that surely is friendship, for anyone who has done it knows that proof-reading is a miserably grinding task; and what is more, when I finished yet another book, he asked again to proof-read it. (His proof-reading, incidentally, was meticulous; he missed nothing.)

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!) had a word for my dear departed friend. "Write me," he said to the angel, "as one who loves his fellow-men".

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night it came again with a great waking light. And showed the names of all who love of God had blest. And lo! Bill Hewitt's name led all the rest.

## The IRA is out on a limb

Woodrow Wyatt offers a smart way to fight terror

Exactly three months ago today, the joint declaration of the British and Irish Prime Ministers was issued. The IRA's mortar bombs at Heathrow were taken by many as meaning that it intends to continue violence and reject any peace moves, confident their strength will some day, somehow force a union between Northern Ireland and the Republic. My reading is the exact opposite. The mortar bombs were of ancient design and obviously intended not to go off, but merely to show that the IRA maintains a latent power of destruction. It relies largely on funds from the US, so it would be suicidal to hit or endanger an aircraft carrying American passengers. President Clinton already regrets allowing Gerry Adams to visit.

The IRA has not rejected the declaration. Its waffle about the need for clarification suggests there is considerable disagreement within the IRA as to what to do as public support in Ireland fades away. A poll by Ulster Marketing Surveys in February produced remarkable results. Asked "Do you think Sinn Féin and the IRA have been given enough time by the Irish and British Governments to respond to the Joint Declaration, or not?", 72 per cent in the Republic said yes, 21 per cent no. In Northern Ireland the answers were 76 per cent yes, 13 per cent no.

In the whole of Ireland, 91 per cent agreed that "In the light of the joint declaration, set down by the two Governments Sinn Féin and the IRA should now permanently renounce violence and join political negotiations". In the Republic itself, 94 per cent agreed.

The IRA is out on a limb, however much its Heathrow "spectaculars" encourage recruitment. The poll also asked: "If failure of Sinn Féin and the IRA to accept the joint declaration is reflected in the IRA continuing their campaign of violence, are you in favour of the British and Irish Governments instituting a security crackdown against IRA and Loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland and the Republic?" The answer from all Ireland was 75 per cent in favour with a mere 11 per cent opposed. In Northern Ireland, 77 per cent were in favour. Eighty-eight per cent of Protestants were in favour of a crackdown, as were 61 per cent of Roman Catholics. So the game is up for the IRA and the "Loyalists".

Whatever happens now, the patient pursuit of peace by Mr Major and Mr Reynolds has been vindicated, and could be on the verge of success. The principle that consent of the majority in Northern Ireland would be required before a union of North and South is absolutely established between the two governments; and as an increasing number of Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland do not want Dublin rule, that consent will never be obtained.

The terrorism now owes more to lust for human blood than to hope of redressing political wrongs. If it continues, there are modern methods of stamping it out, apart from the internment of suspects.

If all UK residents were obliged to carry unforgeable "smart-card" identification with photographs, and all foreigners had to show their passports on entry, terrorism would be slashed. Smart-cards the size of credit cards can contain thousands of items of information. If police were empowered to ask anyone to show the card on demand, they could instantly check the electronic record and any suspected association with terrorism or crime. Such a system would deter not only terrorists but burglars, muggers, rapists and credit-card fraudsters. Britain would soon be "back to basics" with civilised conduct. Only the guilty need be afraid.

## Ungalloping Major

JOHN MAJOR is something of a regular at Chelsea's home ground, Stamford Bridge, and we all know his love of cricket knows no bounds. But as the Cheltenham festival opens today, there are mumbblings in horsey circles that the sport of kings could do with a touch of prime ministerial support.

Hence a campaign has been launched by the turf fraternity to entice Major to the Epsom Derby this summer. While the Prime Minister does appear at the odd race in his Huntingdon constituency, he has turned down annual invitations to the Derby with monotonous regularity.

This year, however, there are hopes that he may change his mind. "He has never been, and his presence would obviously be very welcome," says Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the British Horseracing Board. "His predecessor never came either, although invitations were sent to her every year. He would be very welcome to come this year."

Viscount Chelsea, a member of the Jockey Club and steward at Goodwood, Kemp-

ton and Newmarket, agrees that a visit from Major could only do some good. "Of course racing has been badly served by Prime Ministers. The last one to own a horse, as far as I can recall, was Winston Churchill."

But the Tory MP Richard Spring, representing the racing constituency of Bury St Edmunds, believes the Derby should be changed its ways before Major can attend. "I am not aware of the Prime Minister going to a sporting event midweek. He might be more inclined to attend if the event were switched to the weekend." A sentiment well supported around Epsom.

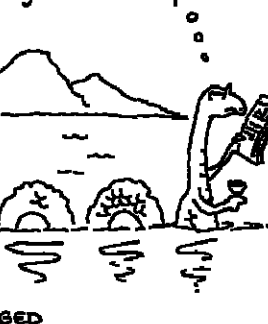
● You've seen the film, now read the book. As the Piano looks like earning its star, Holly Hunter, an Oscar next week, *Bloomers* is preparing to bring out a novel based on the screenplay. The book, by Canadian writer Kate Pullinger, promises to demystify the film, which fails to explain why Ada can't speak or the identity of her daughter's father. "It was a strangely

literary film," says Pullinger. "Almost as though it could have been based on a book."

### Monstrous news

CURIOUS that Saturday night's BBC TV News failed to inform viewers that the famous photograph of the Loch Ness Monster was a fraud. Its rival, ITN, headlined the fake Neanderthal snap with great relish. Perhaps all becomes clear when one considers that the BBC broadcast was fronted by Nicholas Witchell, whose passion for Nessie apparently knows no bounds. Witchell is co-founder of Project Urquhart, which undertakes excavations of the loch.

A few wee drams and I get over exposed



## DIARY

Witchell refuses to comment. The BBC explains that the omission had nothing to do with protecting Witchell's finer feelings. But another corporation, source confides: "They were probably worried that he'd start getting rather apologetic about it all on air."

### Cockles to that

CHEERY PUNTERS packing their shooting-sticks this morning in preparation for Cheltenham may be gastronomically disappointed by the delightful town's *après-race* life. A health official has turned very sniffy about oysters, not to mention mussels. An edict from Forte Hotels has gone out to one of Cheltenham's most popular hotels, the four-star Queen's, to desist from serving molluscs for fear of food poisoning. "With immediate effect, please note that

oysters and mussels are no longer to be used in any form." Forte's hygiene and safety manager, John Derwent, insists. This policy, he warns, must be "firmly stated" to all head chefs.

As he prepares for an arduous week Giles Shaw, general manager of The Queen's, refused to be deterred by orders from HQ. "The Queen's never fails its Gold Cup guests," he vows. "Our kitchens will serve a wide variety of seafood throughout the festival."

### Proctor hook

TASTELESS coverage of the death of Stephen Milligan by the Oxford newspaper *Cherwell* may bring unexpected consequences. The all-powerful proctors are threatening to strip the organ of its status as the official university paper. Wadham College has taken

a lead by banning *Cherwell* from its precincts for its "tasteless and homophobic" stories about the late MP. The proctors had already put the paper on probation because of a spate of libel suits.

Proctors Dr Elisabeth Palazne and Philip Allen issued a warning: "Complaints have been received about some comments in *Cherwell*. As a result, its status is being kept under review."

The editor, Ben Cohen, shrugs this off. "Obviously we are recognised by the proctors, and we were the first Oxford University newspaper. But I don't see what the special status means."

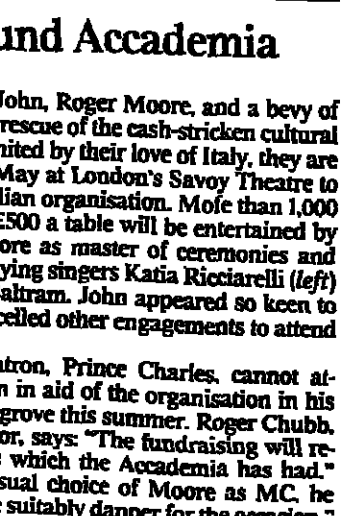
Over at the rival paper *The Oxford Student*, editor Karl Smith happily twists the knife. "*Cherwell's* been doing this kind of thing for far too long."



### Rallying round Accademia

The Prince of Wales, Elton John, Roger Moore, and a bevy of opera stars have come to the rescue of the cash-stricken cultural body Accademia Italiana. United by their love of Italy, they are organising a grand gala in May at London's Savoy Theatre to raise funds for the Anglo-Italian organisation. More than 1,000 guests prepared to fork out £500 a table will be entertained by the unlikely alliance of Moore as master of ceremonies and Elton John (right) accompanying singers Katia Ricciarelli (left) and the Chilean-born Titi Balmori. John appeared so keen to offer his services that he cancelled other engagements to attend the gala.

Since the Accademia's patron, Prince Charles, cannot attend, he will hold a reception in aid of the organisation in his much-loved gardens at Highgrove this summer. Roger Chubb, Accademia's executive director, says: "The fundraising will resolve a lot of the difficulties which the Accademia has had." When asked about the unusual choice of Moore as MC, he smiled: "We needed someone suitably dapper for the occasion."







## PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

Properly regulated security firms will be a boon to public order

Today's report in *The Times* on the growth of the private security industry raises fundamental questions about the relationship between government and private sector in the provision of key public services. The maintenance of law and order has been fundamental to most modern definitions of the State. But as that duty has become more complex and the demand for cost-effective spending has grown, so this orthodoxy has come under fire.

In September the Home Office will publish a report on core and ancillary police functions. Its implications will be far more radical than the proposals for police authorities which have so troubled Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. It will make sweeping recommendations about the role of the police and distinguish between those tasks that cannot be contracted out to the private sector and those that can.

The public's visceral response may be hostile. The purpose of this enquiry, however, should not be to diminish the involvement of the police in basic criminal work but to maximise it. Most citizens would accept relieving the police of jobs such as inspecting chemists' registers or recording keyholders for intruder alarms, particularly if this frees the police to concentrate on cases of serious crime. More than 50,000 civilians are already involved in police work and there is clearly scope for further contracting-out of less sensitive tasks where private firms might provide a better and more efficient service. The true test of this process will be the wisdom of Government in setting suitable performance targets for those who win contracts. The recent history of contracting out on both sides of the Atlantic has shown that this matters far more than whether the service is provided by the public or private sector.

A related development is the growing demand among private customers for security services ranging from cars on patrol

to night watchmen. In its least palatable form this is merely a commercialisation of the vigilante instinct—the grim result of declining faith in the State's capacity to keep the peace. More often it reflects a legitimate attempt by neighbourhood group, business or local authority to supplement the work of the police by contributing to the maintenance of order. Guard work of this kind is emphatically in the public interest.

For precisely this reason, it is important that the right level of regulation is found in this burgeoning industry. The public needs to feel confident that it is being protected from cowboy businesses exploiting a new highly competitive market. In recent years, there have been encouraging signs that the security industry is gradually achieving acceptable levels of self-regulation. The Home Office should keep its efforts to do so under careful review; the Metropolitan police, meanwhile, should explore ways of assisting private security firms with their vetting procedures.

In a more general sense, it is important to ask where this development is heading. In his 1986 novel *O-Zone*, Paul Theroux offered a nightmarish vision of a post-nuclear world divided between a privileged elite of "owners" and an underclass of "aliens", in which order is maintained by violent vigilante groups and continual security checks. The book is a powerful fantasy but its lesson is none the less worth heeding. Pluralistic provision of security services must not diminish the fundamental notion of law and order as a basic public good. Just as the idea of "no-go areas" was unacceptable in the 1980s, so the policymakers of the 1990s must prevent the emergence of a two-tier system in which the police protect only those who cannot afford a better service. In this distinctive area of state responsibility, private firms should complement rather than supplant the established role of the public sector.

## A SERIES OF KNOCKS

Germany's elections promise a bitter time for Kohl

Germany's election marathon—some 18 local, state and European elections culminating in the general election in October—has begun ominously for Helmut Kohl and his ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU). His party suffered its worst result in Lower Saxony since 1959. Herr Kohl had expected a setback in Germany's third largest state, but not one as severe as this.

Even more worrying for him was the collapse of support for the Free Democrats, his coalition partners, who did not even win the minimum 5 per cent needed to enter parliament. The result is already being seen as setting a national pattern. This has boosted the hopes of the SPD, especially of Rudolf Scharping, its canny leader who took over from the lacklustre Björn Engholm only a year ago and needs to establish himself quickly. More encouraging still for the SPD and for the political process in Germany is the return of support to the mainstream opposition parties and the voters' shunning of the far right. Until recently it had been gaining ground alarmingly, boosted by anti-immigrant sentiment, the recession and disillusion with traditional politics.

Several trends emerge from Lower Saxony. If the CDU suffers similar reverses, it will be hard for the party to recover by October. The rumblings of discontent with the chancellor's leadership are already growing, as voters express fatigue with a man who has now been in office for almost 12 years and who, despite his extraordinary ability to outmanoeuvre his opponents, now appears barren of fresh ideas. The CDU will

suffer reverses especially in former East Germany, where its support, galvanised by Herr Kohl's faultless political exploitation of German unification, has long since melted away, together with hopes of any rapid economic recovery. Nevertheless, the deep recession throughout Germany may be the one reason why wavering voters elsewhere decide, despite everything, to stick with the CDU—experienced hands, they believe, can best row the country through turbulent waters. Tacticians are already making comparisons with John Major's unexpected victory in 1992.

What they overlook, however, is the likely elimination of the FDP. Klaus Kinkel, its inexperienced leader, will have an impossible job to revive his party at the very time that Germany holds the presidency of the European Community: both are likely to suffer. And without vital FDP support, Herr Kohl cannot form a viable coalition. The only alternative is a grand coalition with the SPD; but for campaign reasons both parties are ruling that out for the moment. Nevertheless, it is a real possibility, and many, especially Germany's NATO partners, would prefer this to an SPD-Green coalition. Such an outcome would mean the departure of Herr Kohl, and a likely modification of the chancellor's more utopian ideas of a federal Europe. Change is relative: elections in Germany are won on a narrower base than in most countries, and winning the centre ground is vital. Lower Saxony shows that the SPD, after a long period in the wilderness, is again encroaching on this territory.

## BEAUTY AND THE BRUTALISTS

The Prince is right to call for an aesthetic of architecture

The Prince of Wales wants to put the heart and soul back into architecture. Tomorrow a new magazine, *Perspectives*, will be launched under his auspices, neatly combining in its title the analysis of buildings and the proportions to which they are designed. It is intended to appeal to those enraged by "monstrous caruncles". To the extent that it articulates the impatient fury that many feel in the face of certain architects and planners, it deserves to succeed.

The Prince has been derided for his views by architects. They patronise him, accusing him of ignorance and arrogance in equal measure. Some have even gone so far as to call his interventions unconstitutional. For others, though, he has gone straight to the heart of their anxieties. What they see are town and city centres brutalised, and countryside despoiled by hideous housing estates. Worse, there is nothing they can do to prevent it; and until the Prince began his campaign, they had no voice.

It is this lack of accountability that most infuriates. The successes and failures of architects are more visible than those of any other profession or artist. Yet when an architect designs a "walkway" on which pedestrians are terrified to walk, or a housing estate where people dread being housed, the victims have no redress. Nor can they prevent avowedly ugly buildings from destroying the streets that they have learnt to love.

The Prince is keen to promulgate the view of essential beauty. Those who argue that all beauty can be reduced to a matter of

differing tastes are as misguided as those structuralist critics who claim that George Eliot is no "better" a novelist than Barbara Cartland. Yet the Modernist rebellion against classical notions of proportion and human scale has left a whole generation of people feeling alienated from the buildings that surround them.

There is more to the Prince's argument than mere nostalgia or love of pastiche. Many modern architects design uplifting buildings; but they do not have to be Modernist, to have broken all ties with the past. In music, literature, poetry and art, Modernism has often thrived. John Cage, the avant-garde composer, used to boast of his ambition to shock and repel his audiences. But while no one is forced to go to a John Cage concert, people have no alternative but to walk past many a brutal building. They deserve better than to be shocked and repelled; and their views matter.

Even the architectural profession now admits that much of its work in the 1960s and 1970s was a mistake. But there has been no hint of remorse, no apology to those whose spirits have been crushed by the surroundings in which they have had to live. Architects can make amends, and are showing signs of doing so. In the past five to ten years, modern buildings have markedly improved, both in their aesthetics and their understanding of context and function. That they have done so is mainly due to the debate which the Prince initiated. *Perspectives* should keep that vital debate alive.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### The proper use of immunity orders

From Lord Hutchinson, QC

Sir, In the controversy over the signing of public interest immunity certificates in order to prevent relevant evidence being given in the Matrix Churchill case, most of your correspondents (February 24, 28, March 3, 5, 10, 11) appear to have lost sight of the distinction between civil and criminal trials.

In the latter my own experience has been that a clear procedure has usually been followed when sensitive material is in question: the minister consults the Attorney-General, and the Attorney then consults prosecuting counsel, showing him the material or conveying to him its essence, and finding out whether it would appear to assist the defence. So soon as prosecuting counsel is clear that this will indeed be the case, he is under a duty to disclose that fact to defending counsel.

The next step will depend on the degree of the documents' sensitivity. The material can be disclosed on a counsel-to-counsel basis; or a summary can be provided without disclosure of origins; or the machinery for making admissions can be used whereby bare facts can be admitted, which then become evidence in the case; or part of the proceedings may be held in camera.

If the material is so sensitive that none of the alternatives can be used, then the prosecution will have to be withdrawn, for the duty of prosecuting counsel is always to act as a minister of justice rather than the advocate of a cause.

As the charge in the Matrix Churchill case involved deceiving the Government, one would think that it must have been obvious from the start that the documents were clearly relevant to the defence.

No doubt Lord Justice Scott will establish whether this procedure was followed, and if so why it was that the case got as far as it did. One merit of the procedure is that the judge is normally not involved, and is therefore not asked to make a decision on admissibility, which in most cases will depend solely on political considerations.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY HUTCHINSON,  
House of Lords,  
March 11.

### Terrorism 'error'

From Mr J. Enoch Powell

Sir, "The first rule in dealing with terrorists is not to concede what they set out to achieve" (leading article, March 11). With respect, quite right, and congratulations. That is the mistake which the Government has made and in which it is attempting to persist.

I am, Sir, etc.  
J. ENOCH POWELL,  
33 South Eaton Place, SW1,  
March 14.

### Wrens on board

From Mr Richard Tilbrook

Sir, The recent case of a Wren jumping ship with a sailor (report, March 11) and all the pain it has caused must surely make the Admiralty think again about Wrens on naval vessels.

The concept of young men and women living and working together in the intimate atmosphere of a ship at sea is quite naive in that it ignores the most powerful force that motivates our lives when young—sex.

It is fair to expect virile young men, away from their wives and girlfriends for long periods, and living cheek by jowl with attractive young women, to become suddenly celibate?

Is it fair for the wives or girlfriends on shore or the husbands and boyfriends of the Wrens, and how much needless pain is going to be caused by jealousy and suspicion?

Aren't we taking the cause of "equality" to ridiculous lengths?

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD TILBROOK,  
Red Squirrels,  
Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk.

### Recalling patients

From Professor Robert Bluglass

Sir, The case of Christopher Clunis, the mental patient who killed Jonathan Zito (report, February 25), emphasises very clearly the problems inherent in managing discharged psychiatric patients. The recall to hospital of a patient who fails to take his medication and begins to relapse is only facilitated by existing sections of the Mental Health Act 1983 during the time that a patient is on leave from the hospital and liable to be recalled.

Once six months have elapsed (under section 3) the patient cannot be recalled and can only be detained once again under a new detention procedure, and only if he satisfies the criteria for the use of section 3. Mr Goodall (letter, March 3) in his interpretation of the Act is correct but he ignores the position following the expiration of the Order.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in January 1993 proposed a "Community Supervision Order", which would allow supervision and recall if the patient began to fail to take his tablets and to deteriorate. However, the House of Commons health committee, the Mental Health Act Commission and others were against it on

### Causes of TB and dangers of inadequate treatment

From Dr Surinder Bakshi and Mr Shaikat Ali

Sir, Your support for the need to take services to the patients for better tuberculosis control (leading article, March 8) is most welcome, but it is a myth that homelessness and poor housing conditions contribute to the rise of the disease.

Nearly 2,000 cases have been reported over the last five years in Birmingham, only two in homeless people. Such people are vulnerable to TB only if they have the added problems of alcoholism, drug addiction or a medical disability. These conditions are not generally associated with homeless people in Birmingham.

We have carried out a survey of TB among white elderly people in the city which shows no link with poverty.

You mention recent immigration as another factor in the increase, yet we have recently pointed out in the *British Medical Journal* (February 5, 1994) that the expensive and discriminatory chest screening service at our national airports has failed to show importation of active TB into the country. Indeed, the prevalence of TB is much higher in children born in this country than in their immigrant parents.

We get more cases of TB in the elderly because there are more of them and this trend will continue until the first decade of the next century, when people exposed to TB before the First World War have died. TB in the United Kingdom is a factor of poor nutrition: in the elderly because of self-neglect or a chronic debilitating illness, in immigrant children because of social and cultural factors and in the homeless in London because of increasing alcoholism and drug addiction.

The much maligned NHS sustains a superb TB control service. It be-

hoves doctors, nurses and social workers to be on the alert for the disease's risk factors, to prevent infection or to detect it before it spreads to others.

The danger of TB lies in our failure to understand its natural history in the United Kingdom and in our continuing to focus on poverty and bad housing. Evidence is increasingly emerging in various parts of the world that improvement in nutrition, however small, has played a dramatic role in its reduction, although housing conditions and general poverty have not improved in poorer countries.

Yours faithfully,  
SURINDER BAKSHI  
(Consultant in communicable disease control),  
SHAIKAT ALI  
(TB research worker),  
East Birmingham Health Authority,  
45 Bordesley Green East,  
Birmingham 9,  
March 10.

From the Honorary Secretary of the British Thoracic Society

Sir, In your leader on tuberculosis, you stress the necessity for supervision of treatment by a respiratory specialist, and contrast the provision of such expertise for TB sufferers in Britain with the unhappy state of affairs in the USA. However, the availability of this expertise is under threat. The number of respiratory specialist doctors in training is being cut by half because of the lack of consultant posts for them to move into at the end of their training. Some hospitals have no such specialist at all, and in many other districts the provision of such posts per head of population is the lowest in Europe.

Respiratory diseases other than tuberculosis are also becoming more common. Most patients with Aids have pneumonia either as the first

sign of their disease or at some stage during their illness. Asthma now dwarfs all other conditions as the most common cause of long-term ill health in children and young adults. Such ill health is, moreover, almost entirely preventable with appropriate treatment.

You rightly point out the need for investment in specialised TB health visitors. Without similar investment in specialist respiratory doctors, the future health of people with a whole range of lung diseases, including TB, will suffer.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MOORE-GILLON,  
Honorary Secretary,  
British Thoracic Society,  
1 St Andrew's Place, NW1,  
March 9.

From Dr Heather Milburn

Sir, Your leading article highlights a growing and very real health problem in inner London. The area served by Guy's Hospital suffers extreme social deprivation, with 35 per 100,000 of the population sick with tuberculosis. Furthermore, 12 per cent of cases of TB in Southwark occur in children under 15 years (a particularly vulnerable group).

At Guy's last year we saw around 60 new cases of TB and the prevalence in this district is rising by 10 per cent per annum. This is just one example of the deteriorating health of London's poor.

The Government's intention to close Guy's will further exacerbate the situation and wholly fails to recognise the special medical needs of the inner cities.

Yours faithfully,  
HEATHER MILBURN,  
Chief Clinician, Guy's Hospital,  
St Thomas Street, SE1,  
March 8.

### Call to stand firm on Hong Kong and trade with China

From Mr John Walden

Sir, Mr K. H. Lee suggests (letter, March 3) that Governor Patten should "abandon his quasi-imperial stance and fulfil Britain's obligations... in the 1984 Hong Kong accord", presumably by giving in to China's demands that he abandon his proposals to broaden the franchise for Hong Kong's 1995 elections for the Legislative Council.

This does not square with the findings of the International Commission of Jurists, the only independent body to have enquired into the way Britain and China have discharged their responsibilities under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984.

The commission's 1991 mission to Hong Kong by eminent lawyers from four countries, including Malaysia, found it was China rather than Britain which had failed to implement the accord's political objectives and embody them in the Basic Law—China's constitution for the territory from July 1, 1997, but adopted by the National People's Congress on April 4, 1990.

The mission's 1992 report concluded "that the Basic Law is inconsistent... with the obligations which the PRC [China] accepted by its signature and

ratification of the Joint Declaration. Having regard to the number and importance of these inconsistencies, the Basic Law has to be seen as a deliberate attempt by the PRC to renege on its obligations".

The commission also criticised the British Government's response to China's breaches of the Joint Declaration as "one of supine acquiescence". The Commons foreign affairs committee took the same view in its 1989 report on Hong Kong which examined the second draft of the Basic Law and found that it did not match Parliament's expectations of constitutional reform in the transitional period.

It would be helpful to Mr Patten in his late bid to honour Britain's constitutional obligations to the people of Hong Kong, who have from the outset been denied any say in their future, if the Foreign Secretary could bring himself to admit that the Foreign Office should have been firmer with Peking in 1985.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN WALDEN,  
University of Hong Kong,  
Centre of Asian Studies,  
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong,  
March 7.

### Gun risk at home

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, The tragic death of Lady Cathness illustrates the dangers of keeping a firearm at home. Medical researchers have shown that the risks of owning a firearm far outweigh any protection that is afforded in terms of crime prevention.

Dr John Goves, the Cairnness family GP, should be congratulated on his repeated, concerned warnings (inquest report, March 10) to Lord Cathness that his wife might use his shotgun on herself.

The risk of suicide for householders is increased in homes with firearms and is particularly high for people who have taken drugs for psychiatric illness, for those living alone and for young people still at school. Rather than confer protection against intrud-

ers, guns increase the risk of murder in the home, of one family member by another.

This medical evidence has been influential in the passage of the Brady Bill to bring about gun control at a federal level in the United States for the first time (report, November 12, 1993).

If the grief that this incident has caused strengthens the resolve of the Home Office to restrict gun availability still further, similar tragedies will be avoided in the future.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,  
University of Wales College of Medicine,  
Department of Oral Surgery,  
Medicine and Pathology,  
Dental School,  
Heath Park, Cardiff,  
March 10.

### Theatrical gesture

From Miss Pamela Hay

Sir, Surely Stoll Moss is showing great meanness of spirit in declining to rename a theatre after Sir John Gielgud because his name "may be too high-brow" (report, March 10). If that was a valid excuse it would have been impossible to stage *Guns and Dolls* or *The Wind in the Willows* in the Olivier. All forms of theatre are "drama"; Gielgud implies quality.

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA HAY,  
131 Pelham Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

### Time stood still

From Miss Joan Swann

Sir, As probably the only person now living who knows how the Grantham church clock (letters, February 25, March 3) was started again during the First World War, I feel it is my duty to enlighten your readers.

My stepfather, Mr A. F. F. Edwards, was at that time a churchwarden for Trumpton Church, which is less than a mile from Grantham. Because there were not enough people available in wartime conditions, the vicar of Trumpton and his churchwarden also covered Grantham.

It so happened that my stepfather was a collector of clocks—we had 13 striking and chiming clocks in our home—and he considered that, as he was able easily to do so, it was his responsibility voluntarily to repair the Grantham clock. This he was completely happy immediately to do.

When Rupert Brooke's poem was published some time later he would have been one of the first to acquire a copy for his collection, and would have done so even if he had not repaired the clock. It was in the 1930s that I as a child became his stepdaughter and he was pleased to recite the poem from memory, without hesitation, to me or to my young friends.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN M. SWANN,  
4 Tottill, Shipton under Wychwood,  
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,  
March 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

















**LAW 35-37**  
Lawyers worry about no win, no fee plans



**ARTS 39-41**  
Holly Hunter keeps the British at bay in the Oscar race



**SPORT 42-48**  
Select your ideal cricket team in the First Class XI game

**SAFETY AND THE SEAFARER**  
Small business 31

# THE TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 15 1994

## Heseltine ruling offers hope for jobs

By Patricia Tehan and Alice Thomson

MICHAEL Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, acted to remove the threat to thousands of jobs yesterday, with a promise to bring in legislation to modify the Insolvency Act. The new rules, which apply from midnight last night, effectively sidestep a Court of Appeal ruling in relation to Paramount Airways that would have given administrators or receivers only 14 days to rescue a collapsed business before they were forced to take on liability for the employment contracts of its staff.

Accountancy firms gave warning that this would lead to thousands of job cuts because they would be forced to put companies into liquidation instead of trying to sell them as a going concern.

Their fears proved founded last Friday when the receiver of Michael Mayes, a Rotherham textiles firm that went into administrative receivership on March 3, told 140 staff they would lose their jobs this week because he had not had enough time to keep the business as a going concern.

Mark Homan, president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency and a partner with Price Waterhouse, said: "What Mr Heseltine has done is put the law back in the position in which the Government intended it to be in the first place. Jobs will not have to be lost because of the unfortunate quirk in the law that Paramount seemed to create. The rescue culture is back on track."

Richard Brown, deputy director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, welcomed the move. Fewer companies will go straight into liquidation, he said.

Robin Cook, Shadow trade secretary, also welcomed it, especially as "bankruptcies are still running at one every 90 seconds of the working day".

Pennington, page 27



Euro Disney shareholders checking in at Buffalo Bill's yesterday to hear Philippe Bourguignon, chairman, explain the company's refinancing deal

## Walt Disney steps in to rescue European park

FROM JON ASHWORTH IN MARNE LA VALLEE

THE troubled Euro Disney resort appeared to have put the threat of bankruptcy behind it yesterday, after bankers meeting in Paris announced agreements on a Fr13 billion rescue package.

The move, announced as shareholders held their annual meeting, should dispel fears about the park's future. But survival has come with a heavy cost to Walt Disney, the 49 per cent shareholder, which has been forced to give in to an astonishing number of demands to protect its pride. The cost to the US group could top Fr4 billion.

Terms of the refinancing, agreed between Walt Disney and a committee of banks led by Banque Nationale de Paris and Banque Indosuez, have yet to be accepted by the bulk of the 63 lenders.

Under the restructuring, Walt Disney will put up an

■ Survival of the Paris park has come at a cost of Fr4 billion to its American parent, which has had to give in to an astonishing number of demands to protect its pride

extra Fr1.1 billion in credit and spend an additional Fr1.4 billion on buying certain park assets from Euro Disney. In addition, Walt Disney has agreed to waive royalties on entrance fees, food and merchandise and suspend management fees — both for a five-year period. The banks have agreed to an 18-month moratorium on interest payments. Payments of principal have been deferred for three years.

The nub of the rescue package is a Fr6 billion rights issue, of which banks will underwrite 51 per cent with Walt Disney subscribing for 49 per cent. The proceeds will reduce bank debt from Fr16 billion to Fr10 billion. The most controversial element of the package is an issue

of bonds with ten-year warrants to buy Euro Disney stock at Fr40 per share, leading to the potential issue of up to 70 million new Euro Disney shares. An issue of this size would lead to a substantial dilution of existing shareholders' interests.

Analysts reacted cautiously to the news, saying many details had yet to be disclosed. Charles Allen, at NatWest Securities, said: "As expected, it looks after the interests of the banks and debt-holders more than the shareholders, which is right." Rebecca Wilmington-Ingram, at Morgan Stanley, said the restructuring would add another 600 million shares to the 170 million already in issue.

Philippe Bourguignon, the Euro Disney chairman, hailed the refinancing as a crucial stage in the development of the company. He told 800 shareholders at yesterday's meeting that the deal ended months of uncertainty.

M. Bourguignon came under fire from shareholders, congregated at Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, who accused the board of "keeping them in the dark" over developments. Several questioned why ordinary shareholders had paid Fr72 for Euro Disney shares when Walt Disney had paid only Fr10.

Agreement on a refinancing underpins a nine-month programme of reforms designed to put Euro Disney firmly on the road to recovery. Prices have been reduced to make the park more attractive to visitors, and staff and running costs have been trimmed.

Stephen Burke, head of operations, said the refinancing meant Euro Disney could

now break even at current attendance levels.

Nearly 10 million people visited Euro Disney last year, 13 per cent fewer than expected, and they spent far less than anticipated. Lower revenues, and a shift in accounting policy, left the company with a Fr5.34 billion loss in the year to September 30, 1993. Prospects now depend entirely on a rise in attendance levels.

The shares closed down 7 per cent in Paris at Fr33.85.

Pennington, page 27

## Low price rises in industry cheered

By Janet Bush ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRY'S costs and prices remained extremely subdued in February, suggesting that there are few inflationary pressures developing in the economy and fueling renewed hopes in the markets of a further base-rate cut.

The Central Statistical Office said that producer output prices rose by just 0.1 per cent in February, giving an annual growth rate of 3.3 per cent, against an annual 3.7 per cent in January. This was the lowest rate since November 1992, in the aftermath of sterling's rapid fall outside the European exchange-rate mechanism, and beat City predictions of 3.5 per cent.

Output prices excluding volatile food, drink, tobacco and petrol prices were also subdued, rising only 0.1 per cent, for an annual rate of 2.4 per cent, against 2.6 per cent in January. Over the last quarter, this measure of output price inflation has risen by only 0.2 per cent, against 0.7 per cent in the same period a year ago. Simon Briscoe, UK economist at SG Warburg, said: "This bodes well for weak retail prices in the months ahead."

Input prices paid by industry for raw materials were unchanged in February and 3.6 per cent lower than a year ago. This is the biggest annual fall since January 1991.

John Sheppard, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe, said: "On every measure, these figures suggest that inflation is muted."

The equity market bounced from Friday's sharp falls, helped by the prices figures. The FT-SE 100 index rose 41.5, to 3,233.4.

□ Credit card spending was £2.52 billion in February, 10 per cent up on a year ago, the Credit Card Research Group said. Spending on hotels and entertainment was buoyant.

BUSINESS EDITOR Robert Ballantyne

**BUSINESS TODAY**

DESIGNS

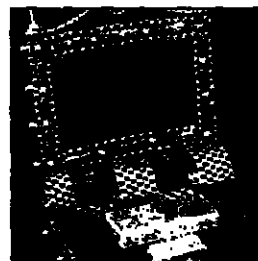


Fiat has designs on the British market. It is pinning hopes on the new Punto model which will be launched this week. Page 29

PLANS

The Stock Exchange wants to manage the new Crest settlements system, just a year after the Taurus debacle. Page 26

SCHEMES



The Ashanti stool sits in London's head office but it is the Ghanaians who are selling shares in the gold mine. Page 27

BLUEPRINTS

Costain, the builder and civil engineer, has reduced debts from £331 million to £83 million as intended. Page 30, Tempus 29

## Clinton presses for rate cuts in Europe

FROM PHILIP BASSETT IN DETROIT



Kenneth Clarke arriving in Detroit for the G7 jobs summit

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday called for lower interest rates in Europe to help to cut unemployment, but the world's leading industrial nations are not expected to endorse his proposal when their jobs summit ends today.

The jobs conference of the Group of Seven leading economies will close with an agreed statement on jobs that will avoid emphasising macro-economic policies as a way to cut unemployment. As a result, President Clinton is now likely to put fresh proposals on jobs to the full G7 summit in Naples in summer.

In his address opening the jobs summit in Detroit yesterday, President Clinton sug-

gested that the three big economic blocs of the US, Japan and Europe each adopt specific and different policies to increase employment. He said: "The United States should continue to bring its deficit down; Japan should increase domestic demand; and Europe should continue to work for lower interest rates, so that these things together can spark a new round of worldwide growth which will create more economic activity and more jobs."


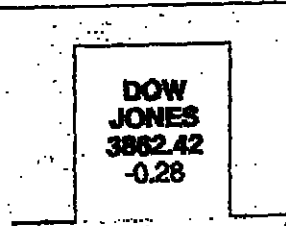

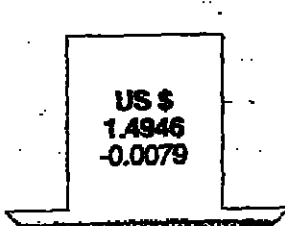
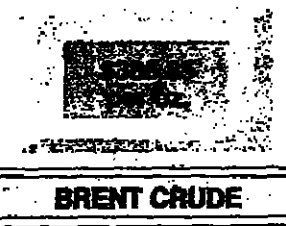
Mr Clinton raised the question of the "best strategy" for "worldwide co-operation on monetary and fiscal policy to stimulate growth and create jobs" — a key part of the US

approach with which the British Government is uneasy.

On US interest rates, Mr Clinton said that he did not foresee the need for further rises. On his way to give his speech, he said: "I think that since there's no inflation in the economy, interest rates should not continue to go up."

Mr Clinton's speech, with its emphasis on trade, training, productivity and technology, won broad approval from G7 delegates, including Britain's Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said: "President Clinton's speech contained elements almost all of which I agree with."

Clinton warning, page 17

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
 FT-SE 100 3233.4 +41.5	 DOW JONES 3862.42 -0.28	 Dm 2.5256 +0.0041	 US \$ 1.4946 -0.0079	 BRENT CRUDE \$13.40 per barrel (May) 6.00pm	
Midday trading figures					
LONDON CLOSING PRICES					

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 32

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## BT dials redundancy for senior managers

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT is calling on managers earning £100,000 or more to set an example to their staff — by taking voluntary redundancy.

Michael Hopper, managing director, has written to employees warning them that unless more bosses sign up for the company's Release 94 job-cutting scheme, compulsory redundancies may be needed. Of the 170 most senior managers earning more than £50,000 a year, BT is hoping that 30 to 35 will go.

Enthusiasm for payouts offered by BT's redundancy programme, which aims to cut a further 15,000 from the company workforce

during 1994-95, falls steadily as managers rise up the BT hierarchy. Although 9 per cent of engineers and operators took redundancy during the year ending this month, only 5 per cent of middle managers have signed up. Among the 7,000 most senior executives, the proportion was just 3 per cent.

The reluctance of bosses to resign is jeopardising the success of BT's job cutting drive by leaving the organisation top-heavy with executives. In the past two years, BT has shed some 45,000 workers, taking total employee numbers to 153,000. But the company still has some 32,000 managers, more than one for every five employees.

In his letter, Mr Hopper said: "We need to

reduce the number of senior managers significantly by March 31, 1995, but there are simply not enough volunteers coming forward. We will do everything we can to encourage sufficient volunteers but we must face the possibility that, if there are too few volunteers, we will have to move away from a purely voluntary approach for senior managers."

BT's job shedding drive is a response to regulatory pressure, rising competition, and the introduction of improved equipment requiring less maintenance or enabling operators to handle more calls. Although productivity is higher at BT than in some comparable telecommunications companies in mainland Europe, the group still looks over-staffed by comparison

with its American counterparts. Growing competitive pressure from cable companies, Mercury and others in Britain is being compounded by a strict price control regime. Under a formula agreed with OfTel, the regulatory body, BT is currently forced to cut its prices by a total of £500 million a year.

Mr Hopper said: "Our first priority must be to ensure that BT is able to compete effectively in an increasingly tough market place. We must continue the drive to generate more revenue, to improve efficiency and to reduce costs."

BT has already spent more than £330 million on redundancy payments. Current plans foresee a reduction to about 130,000 employees by April 1995. Further reductions are also likely.

## Exchange stakes its claim to run Crest

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE London Stock Exchange is best placed to manage Crest, the new electronic share settlement system being set up by the Bank of England, Sir Andrew Hogg, the exchange chairman, says in a letter to member firms.

The claim follows the debacle over Taurus, the electronic share settlement system that was cancelled last March after at least £75 million had been spent on its development by the Stock Exchange and almost £400 million by the securities industry.

The exchange is seeking a "significant minority interest" in Crest, the letter says. The exchange says this would be about 30 per cent. Sir Andrew writes: "In our view, after Crest has been developed there will be a need for a management role to handle the migration from [the existing settlement system] Talisman."

The letter says the exchange is best placed to take on this job because of its "central position in the equities market" and its role in Talisman. Under the Bank of England's current proposals, managers will be appointed by the new owners when ownership is decided.

The Bank said last month that the ultimate ownership of Crest should take the form of a widely based, mainly private

sector consortium, with individual holdings limited to 10 per cent.

"The exchange believes it should participate in the ownership structure, provided this can be achieved on a satisfactory basis," Sir Andrew says in the letter. "To do so on the basis of a significant majority interest would best contribute to the effectiveness of the arrangements."

The central bank proposed a holding ceiling of 30 per cent on any sectoral group such as market-makers or investing institutions. The Bank said Crest should be operated by a single operator under contract to the owners.

Crest is only at the design stage, but building work should begin in May. The Crest development team hopes the project will be up and running by mid-1996, settling share deals in London within five days or less, compared with the present two or three week "account" paper-based settlement regime.

It will take some time before the system can cope with share deals on a rolling two-day settlement system as is deemed necessary by the OECD to cut down the risks to the world financial system arising from slow settlement of large share deals.



Ready to go: John Harper, chairman, wheels out Avon's new CR338 tyre designed for any road conditions in the world

## GEC and Rolls-Royce sign Indian contracts

By JONATHAN PLYNN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

GEC and Rolls-Royce announced contracts with Indian firms worth more than £1.5 billion, marking a further surge in the growing trade between Britain and India.

The agreements followed a

Downing Street meeting between John Major and Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister. The two leaders agreed to a year's extension of the Indo-British Partnership Initiative, which is aimed at fostering links between British companies and India's burgeoning pri-

vate sector. British exports to India rose 20 per cent to £1.13 billion last year, while imports from India soared 26 per cent to £1.09 billion. Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, yesterday hailed a "golden era for trade between our two countries".

GEC announced two con-

tracts, one for a 1000-megawatt power station worth up to about £1.5 billion, and another for a high technology telecommunications network in Bombay. The Rolls-Royce agreement involves a technology transfer deal in Bangalore with an Indian electricity company.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## McKinnon becomes chairman of Cowie

SIR James McKinnon, director-general of Ofgas until last November, has been appointed non-executive chairman of Cowie Group, the motor finance and retailing group that is based in Sunderland. Sir Tom Cowie retired as chairman of the group at the end of last year, after the announcement of his departure on June 30. The company also said that it is seeking to appoint a further non-executive director to increase the complement of non-executive directors to three. Sir James, 64, currently chairs M&A, the money-broking media group, and is deputy chairman of Scotia Holdings, the pharmaceuticals company. He is also chairman of Ionica, a radio telecommunications company, and a non-executive director of Admiral, the computer services and software group. Sir James was also recently recruited as chairman of Trafficmaster, a company soon to be floated on the Stock Exchange, and acts as adviser to the board of Calor, the gas distribution group.

## Fairey profits rise

FAIREY, the electronics and engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits 27 per cent to £21.8 million for the year to December 31. There is a 16 per cent rise in the final dividend, from 6.9p to 8p, making a total dividend for the year of 11.8p, against 10.2p last time. Sales advanced 25 per cent to £130.2 million. The company generated cash of £12.4 million in the year before taking account of exceptional advances. The biggest improvement was made by the electronics and electrical power division, which lifted profits from £10.7 million to £14.8 million on sales of £80.7 million, up from £56.1 million.

## Cookson disposals

COOKSON Group, the industrial materials concern, has sold a clutch of lead and aluminium engineering companies to the Calder Group, a Newcastle management buy-in vehicle, for £11.9 million. Cookson will concentrate on its core businesses of electronic materials, technical ceramics, ceramic supplies, precious metal fabrication and plastics. In 1993, the businesses being sold registered pre-tax profit of £4.3 million on sales of £153.8 million. In addition, Cookson will receive a further maximum payment of £10 million in the event of a sale or flotation within five years.

## GRT drives to market

GRT Bus Group, the operator of buses and coaches in Scotland, Leicester and Northampton, plans to float its shares on the Stock Exchange next month through a placing by James Capel. GRT was formed after an employee buy-out of Grampian Regional Council's bus and coach operations. It is likely to raise £15 million to £20 million, capitalising the group at up to £40 million. The proceeds will be used to eliminate borrowings of £10 million and fund expansion. GRT's employees currently hold 39 per cent, management 51 per cent, with 3i and Abrust holding the remainder.

## Greggs lifts dividend

GREGGS, the bakery group, shrugged off continuing price wars in the bread market reporting a 29 per cent rise in profits. Pre-tax profits increased from £6.97 million to £9.02 million for the 53 weeks to January 1, helped by the introduction of new lines and improved efficiencies. Margins improved from 6.9 per cent to 8.2 per cent. A final dividend of 12p (10p) makes a total for the year of 18p, compared with 15p last time, an increase of 20 per cent. Trading was strong throughout the year, with sales up 9.3 per cent. Seventeen shops were opened, bringing the total chain to 499.

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## Satellite TV firm to create 600 jobs

By A CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 600 jobs are to be created in Wales over the next three years by the launch of a joint venture between the Welsh industrialist Alfred Gooding and Grundig of Germany. The venture will make satellite television receivers.

About 400 people will be employed by the end of the year and 600 by the end of the third year of production at Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan.

The new company, Grundig Satellite Communications, in which Gooding Consumer Electronics will have a 70 per cent stake and Grundig 30 per

cent, aims to produce 1 million receivers a year by the third year. Production will start at the end of the month.

Chief executive of the new company is Koen van Driel, joint owner of Gooding Consumer Electronics. Mr van Driel was formerly commercial director of Astra, the European radio and television satellite company, and was previously managing director of Grundig UK.

Gooding has already made more than 1 million satellite receivers, mainly for the UK market under other companies' names.

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Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY: National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

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Dated 15 March 1994

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□ Euro Disney's refinancing brings no happy ending □ Unfinished business at the APB □ Heseltine swings into action

## Nightmare with the ugly sisters

INVESTORS in Euro Disney hoping for a fairy tale transformation scene to make it all better had a rapid awakening as their shares quickly lost early gains on the Paris bourse, relapsing to 34 francs. If this is a fairy tale, the plot reads like one of the nastier ones collected by the brothers Grimm, but without a happy ending. True, the show will go on if Snow White can persuade the Nibelungen of the banking syndicates to agree. That was expected. Unfortunately, the outcome of the negotiations between the banks and Walt Disney has proved only too predictable as well.

These ugly sisters have protected their own privileges: excessively high interest rates on the one side and many layered commissions, fees and bonuses on the other. They will be temporarily forgiven or waived to allow for the trading disasters, but kept in place to burden the long-term profitability of the enterprise and keep Cinderella outside shareholders in their place at the end of the line. Indeed, Walt Disney will gain an even firmer stranglehold over the enterprise.

On top of the rights issue, which will dilute the existing 170 million shares by an extra 600 million or so, Uncle Walt and the banks will have warrants for a further 70 million at 40 francs and Walt Disney a further

tranche via a billion franc bond convertible at 40 francs. And Disney père gains yet more control by taking over a lot of the assets and leasing them back "on favourable terms".

That conversion price at least puts some perspective on the rights issue, likely to be at around 10 francs. Things are not yet quite as bad as that suggests. It is just a strong incentive to persuade recalcitrant investors to stump up for their share of the refinancing and make sure any underwriting fees are money for nothing. Even so, the true message of this is that those who bought at the issue price of 72 francs, let alone when they traded at more than double that in the euphoric early days, have lost most of their money. In effect, if the shares recover, this will be regarded as such a success by the banks and Walt Disney that they are entitled to a performance share bonus.

Existing investors should take up or sell their rights, but there is nothing in this package to suggest that Euro Disney will ever prove the bonanza all concerned once assumed. The initial greed

of the ugly sisters assumed that there would be enough left to satisfy everyone else. Trading should improve and dividends should eventually come after debt is brought down to about 10 billion francs. But this does not look likely to prove an enterprise that will earn good long-term returns, unless, possibly, you are Walt Disney.

The lessons, as at Eurotunnel, are simple. If you get into bed between two ugly sisters, you are likely to be in for a nightmare. And beware snappy promoters from Warburgs bearing projections of a bright future for grand and untried enterprises.

### Another boost for auditor power

AUDITORS' new duty, to report their worries about things going wrong in financial companies to regulators, stems from the drive to blow the whistle on fraud and malpractice earlier in cases such as BCCI. In that instance, however, the auditors, acting on a strictly voluntary basis, seems to have acquitted



themselves better than the Bank of England. The main impact of the statutory duty, judging from the new standard of practice, will be on relations between the auditor and a potentially dodgy client. An auditor who must tell regulators if, say, lending policies might endanger solvency, gains a much stronger influence. Regulators must be told even if some material malpractice is put right, so the client's board will have a strong incentive to take its auditor's advice fast or have even more to explain when the regulator calls.

Indeed, much of the reform of auditing taking shape under the Auditing Practices Board has this effect. If accountancy firms use this greater influence, they

might become slightly less obsessed with the tide of litigation they fear might engulf them. This balance of power is also at the centre of the wrangle over signing off statements that directors are sure their company is not about to go bust. The APB has run into a serious challenge to its authority over this "going concern" issue, both from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and from the Cadbury committee's ad hoc working party. If, as the APB still contends, companies have to confirm in one set of accounts that they should remain a going concern until the next, the auditors have more clout to oblige directors to match finances with obligations. That, in turn, might persuade companies to order relationships with their banks better and take more care with loan covenants.

Bill Morrison, the APB's retiring founder chairman, who is being pressed into a new career as a non-executive director, reckons boards themselves ought not to want to put their names to accounts if they do not think there will be another set. How

true. After a slow start, the APB under Mr Morrison has become something of a driving force in the accounting industry, not least through the radical proposals of the McFarlane report. His successor Ian Plaistowe, immediate past president of the ICAEW, will preside when the APB takes the final decision to stay firm on its going concern standard or compromise with the ICAEW line. It will prove a crucial test for Mr Plaistowe and for the board.

### Of Paramount importance

RECENT lobbying, led by the Society of Practitioners in Insolvency, regarding the negative implications for employment of the recent Paramount Airways appeal court judgment, has clearly found a receptive ear under the President of the Board of Trade's flowing locks.

In a radio interview, early yesterday, Michael Heseltine hinted that his intention was to restore the situation to the pre-Paramount scenario, his sub-

sequent message to the House being that new legislation will be brought forward to run, retrospectively, from midnight last night. In his words: "What this means, in practice, is that the administrator or receiver will not have to renegotiate contracts of employment within 14 days from the date of employment."

Heseltine has been under siege since last month's ruling that Touche Ross should honour in full the employment contracts of two pilots kept on while a buyer was sought for the collapsed airline. This ruling effectively served to elevate employees to priority creditors. No bad thing, on the face of matters, the historic practice (once again with us) being for administrators to pay salaries but not adopt contracts of employment.

Heseltine argued that, in practice, administrators will take the view they have no alternative other than to dismiss the workforce within 14 days and either close the business or look to new terms of contract. His bleakest prophecy was that companies may opt for liquidation rather than administration. Interestingly to see whether Touche Ross attempts to take Paramount to the House of Lords. Employees should note that if the 14-day deadline was exceeded by midnight, they are still entitled to their contractual rights.

## Deck-clearing sends Simon into £160m loss

By Susan Gilchrist

THE decision by the new management team at Simon Engineering to clear the financial decks has plunged the troubled group deep into the red.

A succession of one-off items, including goodwill write-downs totalling £101.5 million, resulted in pre-tax losses of £160.3 million for the year to December 31, against a loss of £1 million last time. The final dividend has been passed for the second year running.

On top of the goodwill write-down, which arose from a review of the values of all the businesses, the company also incurred a further £40.2 million of exceptional charges. These included non-operating items such as provisions for early repayment of loans and potential litigation costs, as well as exceptional operating losses relating to rationalisation of ongoing activities. Continuing businesses made an operating loss of £6.9 million.

Michael Davies, who took over as chairman last July after the death of Roy Roberts, said that negotiations over a refinancing deal with Simon's bankers and American loan noteholders were at an advanced stage. Once these were successfully completed, the group intended to launch a rights issue to raise about £50

million to bolster the balance sheet, he said. Shareholders' funds have fallen to £44.6 million, from £116.9 million, because of Simon's losses.

Mr Davies, who gave warning of the impending losses in a letter to shareholders in January, said that he was determined to build "a sound and profitable" company focused on the access, storage and process engineering businesses. He said that the sale of peripheral activities, after the disposal of TR Oil Services and Unichem International for some £20 million, was well

under way, and further disposals are likely.

The divestment programme helped to cut net borrowings from £148 million to just under £18 million. The sale of Unichem, which occurred after the year end, will reduce net debt by a further £12.9 million. This brings borrowings near the £100 million target set by Mr Davies last September.

Maurice Dixon, chief executive, said that the new management team had imposed tighter control on working capital, cash and inventory, resulting in a cash-positive position during the second half. After the refinancing deal and the proposed rights issue, "the foundations will be in place for a profitable and cash-generative business", he said.

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### Co-founder of Takare steps down

DEV Pritchard, has been forced to resign as managing director of Takare, the national home company he co-founded 14 years ago. Compensation still has to be decided, but his latest salary was £120,000 and under the terms of his contract he is entitled to one year's pay (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Takare said the decision to terminate his position "was the unanimous decision of all of the directors [with the exception of Mr Pritchard] and was taken after the most careful consideration". He will remain as a non-executive director.

Takare increased pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £14.9 million in the year to December 31. The final dividend was 14p (1.2p), making a total of 2.07p.

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## MAI ready to tighten control at Meridian

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

MAI, Lord Hollick's money-broking to media group, is prepared to increase its holding in Meridian, the South of England television broadcaster, if further shares come on to the market.

But Lord Hollick, the chief executive, has denied any boardroom row between his group, which has a 61 per cent stake, and any of the minority shareholders, which include Michael Green's Carlton Communications, with 20 per cent, and SelectTV, the independent programme maker, with 15 per cent.

He refused to comment on suggestions that Carlton had already offered its stake in the station, which started broadcasting at the start of 1993, to MAI and that the two were negotiating over price.

Meridian swung into the black six months ahead of

forecasts in the second half of 1993, helping MAI to a 42 per cent profit increase in the first half of its financial year.

Pre-tax profits from MAI jumped from £33.9 million to £48.2 million in the six months to December 31, sparking an 18p surge in the share price to 299p, in spite of the decision to freeze dividend payments at 2p after an advance in earnings per share from 6.5p to 9p.

MAI's wholesale money-broking division benefited from interest rate movements and a high level of new issues and managed a 29 per cent profit rise, to £28.2 million, while the retail broking side, encouraged by car sales, rose 48 per cent to £4.9 million.

The group's information division, spurred by a strong performance at MRI, the US magazine readership business, and at the NOP market

research business in Britain, soared 133 per cent to £4.9 million. The media business, comprising MAI's stake in Meridian, chipped in a first-time profit of £5.6 million, outweighing a loss of £3.6 million for the first six months of 1993. There is, as yet, no contribution from MAI's second ITV franchise, the Anglia operation, which was bought in an agreed deal this year. The Anglia business, the group said, would be a "major contributor" to profits and would provide a strong base for future growth.

Sir James McKinnon, chairman, said second-half trading continued to be good, with high levels of activity in the markets and an improving trend in car sales, market research and TV advertising.

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## Ashanti valued at \$1.5bn

By Carl Mortimer

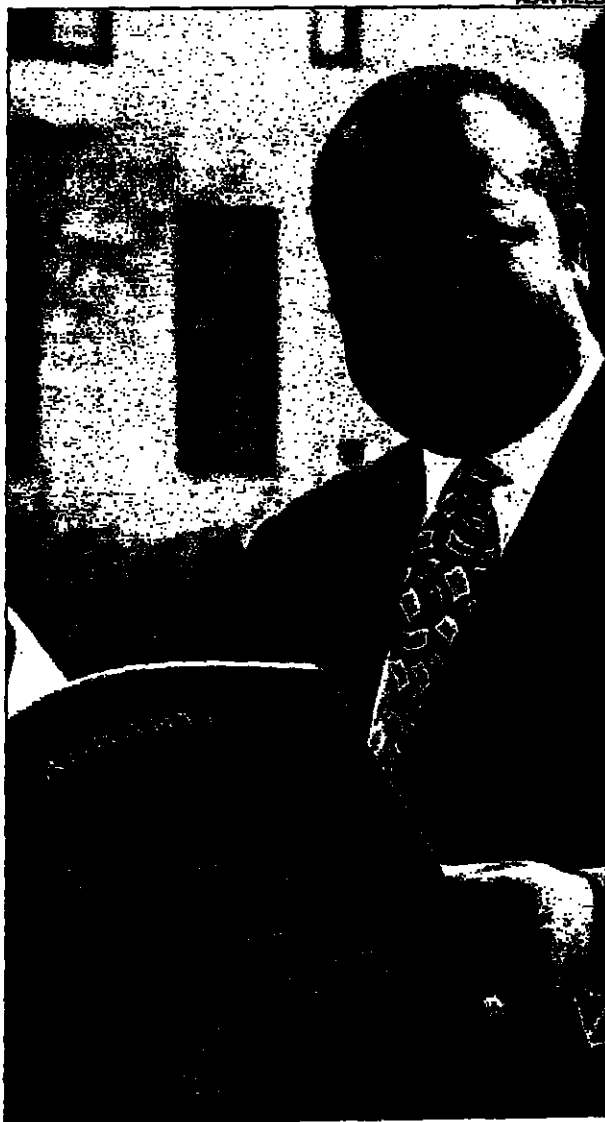
INTERNATIONAL investors have their eyes on Africa's former Gold Coast as bookbuilding begins for the \$1.5 billion flotation of Ashanti Goldfields, owner of one of the world's largest gold mines with proven reserves of 18 million ounces.

The share offer will raise between \$290 million and \$340 million, based on a share price of between \$17 and \$20, as indicated in the prospectus, published yesterday. The Ghanaian government, which owns 55 per cent of the company, is selling 17.9 million out of the 21.4 million shares on offer, with the balance in shares issued by Ashanti to raise some \$50 million for the company.

Lombard, which owns 45 per cent of the company and has three employees, including Sam Jonah, chief executive, on the Ashanti board, is not selling any shares.

Ashanti made pre-tax profits of \$90.5 million in the year to September 30 from production of 770,000 ounces of gold and aims to increase production to 1 million ounces by 1994/5. Mr Jonah said that gold production had trebled since 1985, thanks to \$564 million of investment in new mining shafts, the upgrading of processing facilities and a plant to reprocess tailings from earlier mining activity.

The prospectus highlights several risk factors, including the volatile gold price and political risk.



Sam Jonah plans output of 1 million ounces a year

## JIB Group higher at £21.8m

JIB Group, the international insurance broker, lifted pre-tax profits to £21.8 million from £18.2 million in the year to December 31. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £213.7 million.

Stripping out the impact of currency movements and acquisitions, sales rose 3 per cent. The final dividend was held at 5p, making an unchanged total of 7.5p.

### Into loss

EUROPEAN Leisure, operator of discos and snooker clubs, slid into the red with an interim pre-tax loss of £344,000 (£54,000 profit to December 31). Turnover, affected by discontinued activities, fell to £30.1 million (£35.9 million). There is again no dividend.

### Scotia suffers

A sharp rise in research and development costs, coupled with one-off charges, pushed Scotia, the pharmaceutical company, into a £6.4 million loss for the year to December 31 (£1.8 million loss in the last six months of 1992). There is no dividend.

### Calderburn dips

Calderburn, the office furniture manufacturer, reports profits down to £2.11 million before tax in the year to the end of December from £2.8 million. Total dividend is held at 7.7p with a 4.9p final.

## Spring Ram tumbles into the red

By Philip Pangalos

SPRING Ram Corporation, the troubled bathroom and kitchen maker, dived steeply into the red last year but the new management, now at the helm, declared the group back on course.

The West Yorkshire company, whose soaring success came to a sudden stop at the end of 1992 after a series of profit warnings and accounting irregularities, slumped to a pre-tax loss of £36.4 million in 1993, against a restated profit of £21.1 million previously.

The losses, forecast in January when the group made a £42.2 million cash call, take into account one-off costs of £30.2 million (£4.1 million) and non-recurring income of £3.7 million (£2.4 million). The company spent much of 1993 in a

state of crisis that led eventually to the ousting of Bill Rooney, founder and chairman, and other senior colleagues. Roger Regan, the new chairman, said: "I am confident that the group is well positioned for the future with the right business structure now in place and beginning to work effectively."

Mr Regan said order books were at high levels and sales were ahead of last year in all key divisions. Turnover increased during the year to £239 million (£193 million) and the loss in the second half was much lower than the first. Group debts were reduced from £37.8 million at the end of August to £24.8 million before the rights issue.

The kitchens division, the largest part of the group, boosted sales by 13 per cent to £123.9 million in spite of the excess

stocks carried by the previous management. But margin erosion saw profits fall to £8.3 million (£18.3 million). Sales in the bathroom division were flat at £60.1 million though losses deepened to £3.9 million (£600,000). The speciality products division saw losses increase to £11.1 million (£2.9 million loss), on turnover ahead to £55.5 million (£20.5 million).

The dividend is cut to 0.1p (0.346p). There is a loss of 1p (3.6p earnings) a share. Spring Ram shares added 4p to 67p, against a rights price of 53p.

Stag Furniture, Spring Ram's furniture-making subsidiary, reported a pre-tax profit of £1.35 million (£536,000 loss) in 1993 as turnover rose to £25.3 million (£23.5 million). Stag said trading conditions were tough, though the first two months of this year were encouraging.

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# Fiat gambles its future on the Punto from the south

Colin Narbrough looks at the plight of the Italian car giant which is pinning its hopes on a new model, launched in Britain this week, and a new factory

Giovanni Agnelli, the Fiat chairman, will hope to see the political future of Italy decided in elections in a fortnight. But his company's prospects as a leading European carmaker are more likely to be decided by the Punto, the new model it will launch in Britain this week.

Seldom has a car company's fate rested so much on one single model. In Fiat's case, however, a combination of events has given its huge investment in the Punto, and its decision to locate a state-of-the-art plant for it in the Mezzogiorno, Italy's deep south, the air of an historic gamble.

Given the huge overcapacity in the European car industry, and the ever-growing stream of cars from new, low-cost producers in the Far East, it has long been considered inevitable that Europe will soon see the demise of one, or more, of its volume carmakers. But Signor Agnelli, who delayed his retirement to guide his company back to prosperity, is determined to keep the Fiat flag flying.

Since the launch of its highly successful Uno model in 1983, Fiat has been conspicuously unsuccessful in producing market winners. Holding on to its dominant market share in a declining Italian market, as it did last year, is not the answer. This year promises to be as tough as any during the recession for most carmakers, even though 255,000 Puntos have been sold since they first went into the showrooms in Italy, Germany and France three months ago.

Relying on volume sales will not restore Fiat's fortunes. The 20.4 per cent fall in Italian car deliveries last year was the worst on record. True, European car demand has started to show signs of picking up this year. However, even sales growth in the British market, the only large European market notching up high growth, appeared to slow down in February, with registrations 14.7 per cent up on the same month last year. January had seen an 18 per cent year-on-year rise.

The European Automobile Manufacturers Association expects British sales to taper off further after tax increase start to be felt next month. Industry analysts remain to be convinced of any substantial recovery in European car sales this year, despite a 4.2 per cent rise in the first two months compared with the same period last year. Forecasts for full-year sales suggest annual growth of not much more than 2 per cent, hardly a propitious backdrop for launching a make-or-buy car. That Britain offers the most attractive market in Europe this year has not been lost on Fiat. Italy and Germany, meanwhile, are most likely to witness further contraction.

Fiat has certainly lost ground in the European car stakes. In the late 1980s, it vied for market leadership with Volkswagen, the biggest of Germany's muscular car groups. Despite its slide deep into big losses and a legal battle-royal with General Motors over allegations of industrial espionage, VW has held on to its first place, with 17 per cent of the market, only to see Fiat drop back to fifth with just 12 per cent.



Giovanni Agnelli delayed his retirement to restore Fiat's fortunes

Turin-based group has seen its domestic market share whittled away from almost 60 per cent in 1988 to below 45 per cent last year. Japanese transplants in Britain have wrought the most damage on Fiat's home market. Cars from Nissan's Sunderland plant have started to make serious inroads into the hitherto closed Italian market, as too has Rover with its Honda technology.

As susceptible to falling volumes as its arch-rival VW, Fiat has put its losses last year at 1.8 trillion lire (£720 million). But like VW under the cost-cutting regime of Ferdinand Piëch, the Italian company has been making the most of recession to force its costs down, and could even move back towards break-even this year. The sea-change in Italian politics has presented Fiat, and other Italian manufacturers, with a golden opportunity to dismantle overmanning and effect changes in working practices that would have earlier been impossible.

Of the hundreds of thousands of jobs

expected to disappear in Europe's car industry in the current shakeout, Fiat has made a significant contribution. Earlier this month, its works councils endorsed a cut of 16,500 jobs from the 95,000 workforce in the vehicles division. The cuts package, brokered by Ciri De Luca, the minister of labour, after a wave of strikes since the autumn, contained a 1,450 billion commitment from the government towards development of an environmentally "clean car".

Devaluation of the lira that followed its withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992 was greater than that of the pound, which gives Italian industry an important competitive edge. The country's trade surplus last year largely reflected falling imports, but this year is expected to produce a still larger surplus on the back of rising exports.

With the rise of the Northern League in Fiat's home region seeking to prevent the wealth of northern Italy, one of Europe's most prosperous regions, being used to prop up the Mezzogiorno, it is of some political importance that Fiat, Italy's largest private sector industrial group, has opted to build the Punto in a 1.47 billion plant near southern Melfi, in the Basilicata region. In doing so, it has moved against the tide of industrial investment into a part of Europe usually associated with organised crime and a lack of work ethic, although Melfi itself is said to be a vice-free pocket.

Fiat's commitment to the Mezzogiorno must not be confused with altruism or patriotic fervour. Cold commercial calculations are involved. A large part of the cost of the Melfi plant has been met with grants and soft loans. In addition, the plant is located on a greenfield site in what is farming country. The carefully selected workforce of 7,000, unlike their counterparts in northern Italy, have not been exposed to carmaking before. The average age of the Melfi workforce is 26, against 45 for Fiat's car division in general, and more than 10 per cent have university degrees. Daniele Bandiera, the director of the plant, is the oldest man in the factory although he is only in his mid-thirties.

The fabbrica integrata, or fully integrated production unit, at Melfi, however, is purpose-built to raise efficiency, the prime objective of Fiat and all other companies that wish to stay in big league carmaking. In addition to many of the lean production and constant improvement techniques Japan has given the world, Melfi has a 1.5 kilometre *autostrada* running through the heart of the plant, linking it to outside suppliers located around one end of the motorway. This is Fiat's way of involving suppliers more closely with production to lower cost.

Using its Turin plants as a base of 100, Fiat estimates that labour costs are now 150 in Germany, 130 in Belgium and 107 in France. Britain, Spain and southern Italy are all around 75. Building on its lower labour cost advantage at Melfi, it aims to move close to the world-best in productivity. The Melfi target is 79 cars per year per worker, only one less than the Toyota's plant in Kentucky. Nissan produce 57 per worker at Sunderland and Fiat's Turin plant only manages 52.

Northern Italy has achieved productivity levels matching Germany in the past. Now, Fiat wants to assault the peaks scaled by the Japanese. Giorgio Garuzzo, Fiat's chief operating officer, has observed that Britain has welcomed Japanese carmakers as "liberators". Amid political and economic turmoil at home, Fiat still sees them as the people to beat.



The Punto will be seen in Britain for the first time on Thursday

## TEMPUS

### Broken China

THE divorce rate on the stock market seems to be rising by the week. English China Clays is the latest group to decide it can no longer live in harmony together and has prepared the decree nisi for the separation of its building materials division. ECC plays on the fact it is not asking shareholders for any more money. They may feel they have already paid for the split in the £113 million rights issue last year, something ECC could have forgone if it had disposed of building materials through a float or a trade sale.

At least the rights money will ensure both businesses are soundly financed. CAMAS will be one of the purest aggregate plays on the market, and a post-demerge gearing of about 32 per cent is low enough at this stage in the cycle for it to embark on some acquisitive expansion. For the rest of ECC, the demerge

offers the chance to escape from the violent cyclical of the construction industry. True, the downturn in the paper business did nothing for profits last year, but its swings are mild in comparison.

The demerge will also give the group freedom to exercise its new-found fascination with specialty chemicals, since the departure of the aggregates business will make the group less capital intensive. This, combined with the £100 million ECC should generate from the run-down of its remaining housebuilding interests, will give it the funds to look for acquisitions, like Calgon, which is already enhancing earnings. In other demerges, the sum of the parts has proved to be greater than the whole, and this could happen once more, even though the shares, on 29 times current year earnings, look pricey.

## MAI

FOR all the razzmatazz that surrounded its full-priced acquisition of Anglia Television, it is always hard to view MAI as anything other than a financial services group which uses its excess cash to dabble in the media.

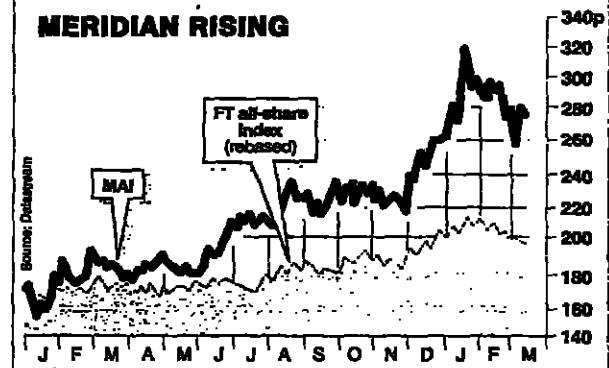
But MAI's interim results went some way towards dispelling that image. The £5.6 million contribution from Meridian, which only started broadcasting in January last year — represents an annual return of at least 20 per cent on the £50 million start-up costs, even though MAI is amortising the cost of its investment at £2 million a year. Proof indeed that independent television is a franchise to print money.

There remains the question of whether MAI can repeat the feat with Anglia, where it must almost double

profits merely to service its £292 million investment. But its Meridian success averages down the cost of entry into the world of television. MAI now seems to be freeing its considerable financial resources to buy in the 39 per cent minority holding in Meridian. The sale of the convertible bond in Havas has left the group with

negligible debt, while Carlton and SelectTV hardly look secure co-investors.

Curiously, it is not this that weighs down its share rating, but its core financial services business, which still provides three-quarters of profits. The market has no time for such proven solidity compared with the allure of the small screen.



## Costain

COSTAIN may have been moved away from the bed by the door, but its exit from the recuperation ward could be a fair time coming: 1993 figures could hardly fail to be an improvement on 1992 and year-end debt is unexpectedly if temporarily lower. The real story is the business's survival, and the next few years are not going to see any drastic improvement in fortunes.

Average margins of 1.8 per cent across the engineering and construction division last year are not going to improve much in 1994, while no great improvements will come from volume gains. The US coal business will continue to swallow cash, \$130 million being invested during last year and 1994 with payback only starting in 1995.

Profits this year are unlikely to reach double figures, while 1995's will be only just there, and the share price, a few pence ahead of last autumn's 30p rights issue price, has little connection with any short-term earnings figure.

With no dividends due before next year at the earliest, investors are already looking to 1996 and beyond.

## Simon

TELLING your shareholders that two-thirds of their assets have vanished is a curious way of softening them up for a £50 million rights issue. But Simon Engineering's long-suffering investors knew what was coming when the company announced talks with its bankers last year over branches of loan covenants. Simon appears to have convinced its lenders that tapping shareholders for cash is a better route to recovery than a workout.

The banks will no doubt welcome the prospect of investors stumping up funds. Gearing after the rights issue should fall from 200 per cent to a pro forma 54 per cent. The new management is proving efficient at squeezing working capital.

Still uncertain is the future of the three core businesses, only one of which made prof-

its last year. A successful turnaround of the European hydraulic lifts business could put it on track for 10 per cent margins or profits of £16 million but a solution still needs to be found for the petroleum technology business. An underwritten issue suggests that institutions are prepared to take the paper but a lot is riding on faith.

## Takare

THE unequivocal dismissal of Dev Pritchard, managing director of Takare, suggests not all is well at the happy valley rest home. The board blames disagreements on strategy, but successful teams rarely drop their captain without a good reason. Takare's results look unblemished and the group is continuing its breakneck expansion on the back of last year's rights money. But in any fast-growth industry the chance of disaster is high, and when the shares of the nursing home operators trade on p/e ratios in their mid-twenties, the downside is large.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Winter of discontent

IT HAS been a long, cold winter for Roger Hurn, chairman and chief executive of Smiths Industries. The story begins late last year, when Hurn arrived for a governors' meeting at Henley Management College. As he left, an argument broke out over his overcoat, with Hurn insisting the article handed to him was not his. It fitted, it was the same colour, but no, he was adamant. Hurn departed into a raging storm without the coat, leaving staff to mount a furious hunt for the "missing" item. All governors and members were contacted. Embarrassment deepened. Hurn kept enquiring after the progress, writing: "looking forward to getting my coat back", and "missing my coat as it is the coldest time of the year". After a fruitless two-month search, Henley decided the rogue coat had to be Hurn's, and prepared to return it. Just before the hand-over was due, a call came in from Pilkington, where Hurn is a director. The Human Resource director had lost his coat. It had taken him two-and-a-half months to realise that the one he had been wearing was not his. The

mystery was solved. I hear that a coat-swapping ceremony is likely at the end of the month.

### Lloyd's 'lepers'

LLOYD'S of London has often been accused of ignoring the plight of the poor old names, while marching on arm in arm with its new-found friends, the corporate capital companies. It protests strongly that it is helping the hordes of disgruntled and financially troubled names by setting up a new company, Newco, into which they can offload much of their old-year liabilities — for a fee. And if the names think Newco should be called

something else, why, they are welcome to suggest an alternative. Unfortunately, it seems the names already have. "We call it the leper colony," says one insider. "Lloyd's wants to shove us all in there and leave us to rot." Charming...

### Room 204

ABOUT two years ago, we reported on the mysterious influence of Room 204, a seemingly ordinary chamber used by the personal finance press officers at National Westminster Bank's offices at 41 Lothbury. Soon after Rob Jamieson moved in to Room 204, he was proud to announce that his wife was preg-

nant. John Morgan, who succeeded him in the room and is now at Legal & General, went on to announce that his wife was expecting, as did his successor, Paul Lockstone. At the time, it was noted that Mike Verity, the then current occupier, was nervously awaiting developments. Since then, the PR team has moved three times, first to the NatWest Tower, then to Draper's Gardens, and now back to 41 Lothbury, to the floor below Room 204. No sooner had they moved back in than Verity announced that his wife was pregnant. I now hear that colleague Jennifer Johnston is leaving NatWest to marry.

### The Headhunter

YOU'VE seen the television series. Now read the book. Following the BBC's *Headhunters* — a saga of steamy potential which turned out to be a bit of a yawn — comes *The Headhunter* by Juliette Mead, to be published by Simon & Schuster next month. Mead, a former stockbroker and search consultant, promises to take the lid off the manipulative world of City wheel-dealing with a healthy lashing of champagne and sex thrown in. The story centres on a fictitious agency run by one Candida Redmayne,

someone who is sleek, powerful and "a maneater". Into the agency comes Teddy Warrington, a manhunter, and so the story progresses. "It could make an excellent follow-up for lovers of *Absolutely Fabulous*," says someone who has had a sneak preview. "All the characters are very similar, and not at all pleasant." Anyone who follows the goings-on at GKR, Russell Reynolds and other real-life firms may find fiction tamer than truth.

### Party bravers

ABOUT 200 guests turned up at a 50th birthday party thrown for David McIntosh, larger-than-life senior partner at Davies Arnold Cooper, the City law firm, last week. McIntosh, a much feared and respected litigator, was thought to have reached 50 some years ago, but few of those present were brave enough to question his credentials. He has held the top post for 15 years, making him one of the longest serving senior partners in a major law firm.

CAN things at the Post Office get worse? *The North* head office has a new press and publicity man... A. Nutter.

JON ASHWORTH

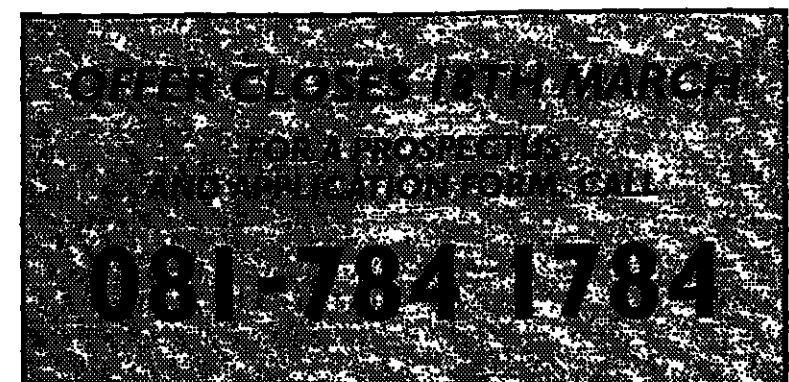


## Beazer Homes



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# Debt cut as Costain returns to the black

■ A sharp reduction in borrowings at Costain, to £83 million from £331 million, underlines the building and civil engineering group's return to financial health

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

COSTAIN Group, the building and civil engineer, has marked a return to more sound finances with a pre-tax profit of £68.7 million in 1993, against losses of £204.6 million the previous year.

The shares moved ahead 24p to 354p as Sir Christopher Benson, the chairman, said the group had achieved the key objectives set at the start of the year and was now in a sound financial position. But shareholders were told at the time of the £84 million rights issue in September that dividend payments would be resumed only as soon as profits returned to adequate levels, unlikely before 1995, and Costain is sticking to that view.

The group managed to edge into profit before all exceptional items, a figure of only £200,000, compared with a £16 million loss in 1992. That year, a total of £188.6 million of exceptional and extraordinary one-off costs was registered.

At the operating level in 1993, profits of £22.3 million contrasted with a £185.7 million loss the previous year. In 1993, Costain also took a £68.5 million profit from the sale of businesses, including the UK housing business that was sold to Redrow Group in July for £24.5 million.

Sir Christopher said the reduction of the group's debts, which some stock market observers had feared might pull the group under, was a significant achievement for 1993. Borrowings, aided by the rights issue and the sale of the Australian coal-mining busi-

ness whose proceeds fell into last year, were cut from £331 million to £83 million. But the group is warning shareholders that this lower than expected figure for the year-end was in part the result of timing delays in payments on Costain's big US coal investment programme, and borrowings are set to increase again in 1994. The trend should turn down again in 1995 as Costain begins to enjoy "substantial" cash inflows.

Sir Christopher added that the engineering and construction divisions had responded well in conditions that continued to be fiercely competitive, turning in an operating profit of £14.7 million, against losses of £5.3 million last time, on turnover that declined from £934 million to £808 million, the latter fall coming mainly from difficult conditions in the British building sector.

Sir Christopher said although Costain was still winning major contracts in civil and process engineering in Britain, it would be some time until the tentative recovery had any significant impact on the contracting market, and margins in UK building in particular remained pitifully low.

The US coal side produced operating profits of £8.3 million, up from £6.1 million, on turnover ahead by £54 million to £295 million and sales ahead by 800,000 tonnes to 1.63 million tonnes. The division had a slow start to 1994 due, in part, to adverse weather.

Tempus, page 29



Powering ahead: Charringtons Fuels, the refined petroleum products supplier, is being acquired by Anglo United in a £41.5 million management buy-out, led by Howard Birtwistle, left.

seen with David Williams, of 31, which is leading a syndicate of venture capitalists. It is putting up £16.5 million equity finance. Charringtons was acquired by Anglo in 1989, as part of the Coalite

Group. It expects to make taxable profits of £3 million in the year to March 31, 1994. Management and employees will hold 25 per cent of Charringtons Fuels with the institutions holding the balance.

## Persimmon to raise £49m after building near-doubled profit

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PERSIMMON, the house-builder based in Yorkshire, accompanied near-doubled full-year profits with an up-beat statement on prospects for the housing market and a £49.2 million cash call to provide funds for expansion of the group's land bank.

The rights issue is on a two-for-11 basis, at 282p a share, and is underwritten by Hambros, with Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, proceeds will finance an increase in the land bank of plots with planning consent from 15,200 plots at present to 20,000.

Since Persimmon's last rights issue, raising £33 million in 1991, the company has achieved a 14 per cent annual increase in completed house sales and has lifted its market

share in Britain from 1.3 per cent to 2 per cent.

Duncan Davidson, chairman, reported a 96 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, to £18.6 million, in the year to December 31, and said that there had been signs of an upturn in the housing market in the past few months.

Margins improved in 1993 and turnover grew 20.4 per cent, to £169.2 million, as completions reached 2,973 (2,340 in 1992). Mr Davidson said that the company has a sales target of 4,000 houses a year within a couple of years.

The encouraging results reflect an improvement in the UK housebuilding industry," Mr Davidson said. "We are now in a housing market which is looking much better.

We've had a good increase in sales in the first couple of months of this year. House prices have firmed up on certain developments. The market is definitely stronger. We are getting more visitors to our show homes and more sales."

The North of England and Scotland fared better than the South of England.

Mr Davidson said: "The company is very well placed to take advantage of a stronger demand for new homes."

Earnings per share doubled to 13.7p (6.8p). The dividend rises 4.7 per cent to 9p (8.6p) for the year, with a proposed final payout of 6.2p (5.8p). The net asset value rose 6.7 per cent, to 146.8p a share. Gearing stood at 20 per cent.

The shares eased 4p, to 333p.

## BSM drives through float forecast

BSM Group, the driving school group, reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in its first results as a public company, higher than forecast when it was floated in October (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Pre-tax profits increased from £4.1 million to £4.5 million for the year to December 31, on sales 12 per cent higher at £23.6 million (£21 million). The first dividend will be paid after the announcement of the interim results for 1994. BSM shares offered at 130p, traded unchanged at 180p yesterday.

The company said there was a 4 per cent rise in the number of people receiving driving tuition from its instructors. This was achieved in spite of a further 2 per cent fall in the number of people applying for provisional driving licences.

## Allocation for MIN shares scaled back

ALLOCATIONS for shares in Midland Independent Newspapers have been scaled down after demand outstripped supply seven times. Only those members of the public who applied for 200 shares will receive all that they sought, with other applications scaled down. Applicants for 300 to 400 will receive 250. Those who applied for 350,000 or more will get just 7 per cent of the number they sought.

MIN, publisher of a series of papers, including *The Birmingham Post* and the *Evening Mail*, the *Sunday Mercury* and the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*, is being floated on the stock market at 140p a share, and is valued at £193 million at the issue price. A total of 27.3 million shares were offered to the public and, by last Thursday's deadline, 45,970 valid applications were received for a total of 190.7 million. Eligible employees, certain directors and pensioners of the company, who applied for a total of 675,000 shares, will receive all they sought.

## Johnson moves ahead

JOHNSON Group Cleaners, the drycleaner, boosted pre-tax profits 20.5 per cent to £18.2 million, up from £15.1 million, in the year to December 25, 1993, in spite of difficult trading on both sides of the Atlantic. Terry Greer, the chairman, said that ordinary 25p shares would be split and consolidated into 10p shares next June to encourage marketability. Earnings per share rose from 49.40p to 62.01p. The company's total dividend increases from 25.7p to 27p by way of a second interim of 20p.

## ISA increases dividend

ISA International has increased the total dividend by 10 per cent. The company recommends a final payment of 1.1p a share, making 1.65p for the year. Earnings were 7.46p a share, up from 5.52p. In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits rose to £4.3 million from £2.7 million, on turnover up to £140 million from £113 million. The company said that the star performer was CTS Svenska, its Swedish subsidiary, which contributed £668,000 to operating profits on turnover of £10 million in the ten months since acquisition.

## Peek advances to £7.7m

PEEK, the specialist electronics group, reported pre-tax profits of £7.71 million last year (£4.84 million). A good performance from the traffic control business balanced more mixed trading from the field data side. The rise is flattered by the non-repetition of one-off costs. At the operating level, therefore, the rise was of 9 per cent to £7.66 million, on sales 13 per cent higher at £100.6 million. Peek is paying a 2.35p final dividend, holding the total at 3.4p.

## Watmoughs lifts payout

IMPROVING demand for Watmoughs' UK gravure and web offset facilities helped lift 1993 pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £15.4 million, with earnings per share rising from 13p to 15.90p. The newly formed Spanish business, Watmoughs España, which started trading in the second quarter, chipped in profits of £1.55 million. A final dividend of 5.10p makes 6.60p for the year, up 14.8 per cent. The company said a steady improvement in overall demand was continuing in the UK

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## LOANS & INVESTMENT

**FINANCE / COMMERCIAL** in London. Tel: 0181 677 1131







## Leading shares squeezed higher

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700	5130	Rural Dials PT	1049	469	44	..
3600	3600	Chalmers Reg	3794	4	31	..
		Scuffid		4	31	..
749	515	Shed	457	4	44	..
331	118	Scoutie Eng 30	31	118	..	..
41	15	Traction Engine	33	..	..	..
19	6	Villier Gun	21	..	..	..
225	135	Woodstock	204	4	14	..

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG					
164	120	AG, Bookings	172	..	34 156
444	340	API	494	2	23 260
300	144	are wigwags	300	2	24 244
733	693	Advent Herald	704	..	103 10
4	4	Anglo Co	304	..	..
512	115	Aspen, Camera	194	..	49 32 176
7	7	Bell	7	..	..
672	223	Bromine	678	..	32 204
36	7	British	111	..	..
118	118	Butte	168	..	40 21 154
490	257	CA Co	300	..	64 14 248
226	70	Campbell Inc	70	..	60 14 248
41	41	City of Iowa	41	..	60 14 248
146	146	Copied Lines	146	..	60 14 248
114	81	Credit Corp	112	..	43 43 151
137	94	Danphin Pack	14	..	43 43 151
4	4	Daniel Jackson	4	..	43 43 151
189	189	Dawson	189	..	43 43 151
490	271	Dawson Group	491	..	43 43 151
490	271	Degeon Int	417	..	43 43 151
14	14	Deer Res	14	..	43 43 151

[illegible]

130	41	Attiled Iron	134	-1	39 285
136	35	Aracanth	141		
140	29	Aurora Ridge	151		
144	52	Auto	157		31 123
161	117	Bald	169	+8	41 340 231
2079	200	B&C	214	-2	189 52 12
275	196	Belt	285		
276	130	Broadfoot	286	+8	59 21 262
32	7	Brown	32		
474	169	B&L Land	483	+10	12 369
475	140	Brown	485		43 173
476	140	Brown	486		12 369
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369	116 1/2	Portland	230	...	...	43	250
370	29	...	...	...	...	...	...
371	88	San Land	230	+	2	24	227
372	100	Clayton	230	+	2	24	227
373	123	Hammerson	399	-	3	100	31 104
374	127	Halliday	399	...	...	...	...
375	400	Montgomery	399	...	...	...	...
376	133	Marling	185	...	...	37	84 173
377	315	...	...	...	...	43	44 148
378	430	Land Sea	675	+	6	221	42 275
379	122	Lin Merritt Sea	675	...	...	...	...
380	14	Land & Merritt	13	...	...	...	...
381	215	NEPC	13	+	3	51	262
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144	Topsi Gate	200	1	21	11
163	79 Town Centre	152	...	28	27.3
127	43 Truhead Park	41	...	36	3.3
58	17 UK Land	7	...	...	...
139	1 Union Square	...	...	...	...
317	180 Warrage	265	-1	52	20.3
25	146 Westgate	1	...	35	3.1
1	2 Westergate	...	...	...	...
124	1 Wines	...	...	...	...
105	40 Wines	John De	101	...	50

SHOES, LEATHER					
45	1 Automechanica	45	+4	...	10.3
238	84 Bawdley	10	...	43	10.3
300	25 Lambton	385	...	122	43. 16.6
45	45 Pilsbury	...	...	...	...
30	300 S. & Fisher	...	...	1.0	5.5
250	80 Syle	362	...	...	1.9
67	33 UK Safety	...	...	...	45 2.3

TEXTILES					
617	426 Allied Text	579	...	22	19.9
71	52 Redfern & J	...	...	...	...
47	21 Bolton Gr	...	...	...	...
226	141 Br. Mearns	272	+1	45	50. 19.9
...	15 C. C. Textiles	...	...	...	...
371	298 Clarendon Gr	311	+3	71	23.4
...	10 Cornmarket	...	...	...	...

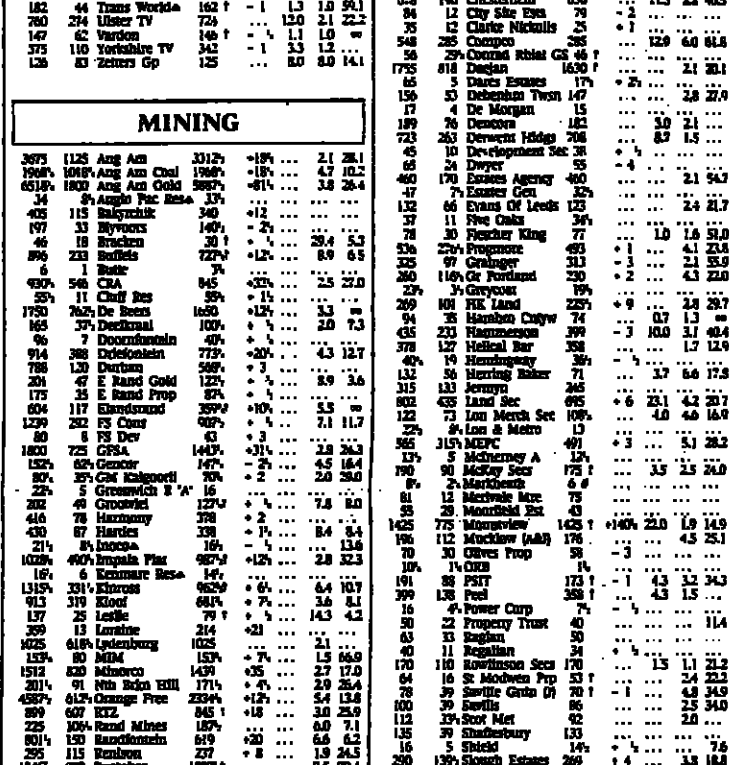
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605	332	Barrenhead One	540	-21	11	23
67	44	Water Canyon	85	-2	13	07
265	147	34th Street	287	-1	37	150
44	24th St		287	-1	37	150
111	41	1st St - Grand Pk	101	-3	13	00
534	248	Mersey Downs	495	-16	30	11
26	1	Nat. Sources	22	-1	13	00
204	219	WPC	259	-1	34	38
148	34	Ocean Group	91	-1	13	00
91	40	Ocean Wilson	81	-1	40	150
758	50	P. A. O. S. 1125	150	-1	13	00
194	127	P. A. O. S. 1125	150	-1	42	35
243	68	Powell Drutty	675	-3	-2	27
243	117	Seaside	100	-1	37	07
206	121	Stapenwood	194	-1	24	26
121	317	St. Mary	269	-1	19	22
911	624	Thibet & Briton	840	-1	124	19
132	37	Thyback	27	-1	13	00
32	100	Town	224	-1	43	-
132	58	Upstart	127	-1	8	-

## WATER

610	453	Adams Water	515	+8	52	81
265	244	Mid. East Water	340	+5	37	13
761	547	Northwestern	648	+5	45	70
611	421	North West	548	+5	48	12
646	439	South West	548	+5	48	12
605	434	South West	548	+5	48	12
1620	1222	30th Street	1328	-2	45.5	29
675	456	South West	548	+5	48	12
611	434	Thames Water	538	+5	51	92
611	434	Thames Water	538	+5	51	92

Source: Vincent  
+ US\$; # Price at suspension; 1 Ex dividend; 1 Ex scrip; 1 Ex future issue; 1 Ex all; 1 Ex capital distribution; = Figures or report available;  
Significant data.





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[illegible]



## INSURANCE/REINSURANCE PARTNER CITY

A young and dynamic City practice, our Client has, through carefully structured expansion, crafted a prominent reputation in the fields of asset and project finance, banking, oil and gas with shipping, litigation, company/commercial, tax and property departments that have few rivals in the City. Having continued to grow throughout the recession in size, turnover and profitability the firm prides itself on the quality of the work it attracts both globally, through its chain of foreign offices, and in the UK.

As a result of its clients' demands and to tap an undoubted area of growth, the firm is committed to broadening further its expertise and seeks an insurance/reinsurance specialist to head this area of its practice.

This is an exceptional opportunity to join a partnership that already has a proven track record in successfully integrating partners and developing areas of selected expansion and one in which you will be given the support you require to foster your existing client base and build on the significant contacts the firm has generated in the insurance world.

Currently a partner (or partner designate) in a firm with a first class reputation in insurance/reinsurance law, you will be looking for the opportunity to develop your practice further at a firm that is forward thinking, well managed at every level and one of the most profitable in the City. You will also possess the necessary management and marketing skills which, coupled with the firm's commitment to this important appointment, will result in a new force emerging in the insurance/reinsurance market.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry or William Cock on 071-405 6062 (071-228 5345 or 071-727 7009 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential Fax 071-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

## Head of Private Office

### International Investment Group

#### Attractive Package

#### Paris with travel

Challenging role for experienced, well qualified administrator to run Private Office of major private investment and trading group.

#### THE COMPANY

- Substantial investment holdings in Europe, North America and Far East.
- Strong relationships with leading investment banks and other asset managers.
- Significant private assets in UK, France and Spain. Commercial activities in Middle East.

#### THE POSITION

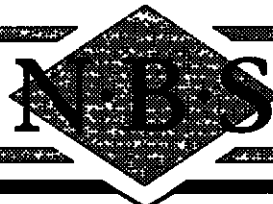
- Efficient management of Chairman's Office. Advise Chairman, ensuring effective communication of his views. Fulfill company secretary duties.
- Assist with implementation of Group's strategies through clear understanding of policies and objectives.

- Liaise with senior executives and advisers both within group and externally throughout Europe.

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# LAW

● DOUBLE TROUBLE 37  
● LAW REPORT 38

A family's tragedy will test links between power lines and cancer, Martyn Day writes



Denise and Ray Studholme with their children Philip and Deborah. Right, their son Simon before his illness, and shortly before he died of leukaemia, aged 13

## Force behind cancer debate

For most people electricity brings forth images of light, warmth and power, which are all very positive attributes. From the moment the radio alarm awakens us in the morning to the moment we turn off our bedside lamps at night, electricity is with us, a constant ally. But increasingly studies are showing that electricity may have contributed to — even caused — cancers and other serious illnesses, particularly in children.

In Britain, the case of the Studholme family will test this issue. In 1989, Raana Denise Studholme bought a house on a modern estate in Bury, Greater Manchester. They had two children then, Simon, aged ten, and Deborah, eight. Within 18 months of moving in, Simon had developed acute lymphatic leukaemia and Deborah had started to have epileptic fits. During the next two years the only devoted their energies to getting Simon through his cancer treatment, but he died in September 1992.

Having been alerted by a television programme to the possibility of link between electricity and cancer, Mr Studholme stated to ask questions about whether the fact that they lived next door to an electricity substation and very close to high-voltage electric pylons could have been the cause of Simon's leukaemia. The response to their queries were mainly palliative. When local electricity board officials came around and suggested that the strong electro-magnetic fields in the house were due to an alarm system, which was not the board's

responsibility, the Studholmes decided to take legal advice. Later it was realised that Simon had been sleeping with only a stud partition between his head and the electricity meter in the hall, which was causing strong electro-magnetic fields.

Legal aid was granted last summer to investigate the health risks to the Studholme children as a result of the electro-magnetic fields in their property, and expert evidence is being compiled. As public interest in this issue has grown, other families with childhood cancer cases have come forward intent upon pursuing proceedings against their local electricity boards. The scientific understanding of the link between electro-magnetic fields and childhood cancers is primarily driven by epidemiological studies. Very little is known about any biological link because of scant research in this area.

In 1979, Nancy Wertheimer published a study, based around Denver, Colorado, showing a statistical link between a high occurrence of leukaemia in children and their living close to overhead

power lines. About a further ten childhood studies have been published, most of which support the Wertheimer study, indicating there is an increased risk of a child developing leukaemia or a brain tumour if he or she lives within close proximity of an electric power line.

Most of the research has been conducted in America and Scandinavia. A study is now being undertaken in Britain.

Scant research means little is known of any biological link

aim to consider the hypothesis that strong electro-magnetic fields are a significant cause of childhood cancer, but the results will not be available for two or three years. In late January, Sir Richard Doll, the chairman of the National Radiological Protection Board, said on a *Panorama* television programme that he thought the link "certainly possible". Opposition is growing, in Britain and abroad, to the installation of high-voltage

power lines. In North Yorkshire, the results of a public enquiry into an application by Yorkshire Electric to install a lengthy overhead power line are expected soon.

In America, the first electro-magnetic field personal injury claim was heard between the Zuidema family and the San Diego Gas and Electricity Company. The case was lost by the family, but it is thought that this was due largely to the fact that the cancer involved was a Wilms' tumour (a kidney tumour), which has not been associated with electro-magnetic fields. Further, the cancer was diagnosed in the mid 1980s, when evidence suggesting the link between electro-magnetic

fields and childhood cancers was nothing like as strong as it has been more recently. A further nine trials are pending in America, with more at a preliminary stage. Additionally, there are increasing numbers of claims relating to property loss, where it can be shown that the existence of overhead high-voltage power lines has diminished the value of property. The validity of such a claim, even when devaluation was

caused by unreasonable public fear, was established in a San Diego case. As the cases regarding electro-magnetic fields become more widely known, and as research continues to strengthen doubts over safety, those properties that are close to electric pylons in this country will also become more difficult to sell.

In Britain, the electricity boards seem unprepared to take any action to reduce possible risks until the evidence is greatly strengthened. The Swedes, however, have decided that it is better to err on the side of caution and have decided to accept the link between childhood cancers and strong electro-magnetic fields, unless the contrary is shown.

Tea break IN VIEW of the long hours spent sitting in uncomfortable court rooms, perhaps British judges should take note of an American initiative.

A sign in Court 18 of the Los Angeles Superior Court reads: "As part of our desire to be an informal, friendly and productive court room, we offer coffee and other hot drinks, which may be consumed any time there is no jury in the box." Presiding judge Eric Younger told the *National Law Journal*: "I don't think it ruins the decorum of the court room to have people sitting and drinking coffee. Plus if they can, I can."

SCRIVENOR

## When immunity is not in the public interest

Next week, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, will give evidence to the Scott enquiry on the use, and possible abuse, of Public Interest Immunity (PII) certificates. A basic guide to the issues may assist puzzled readers to follow the action.

A party to a civil case, or the prosecution in a criminal case, normally has a duty to supply the other side with relevant documents. PII allows for non-disclosure if the adverse consequences of supplying the documents (such as revealing the name of an informer, or harming national security) outweigh the public interest in such disclosure. That will depend on the circumstances of the individual case. Because of the considerable public interest in the acquittal of the innocent, the courts have stated that only in very rare circumstances could a competing public interest justify the non-disclosure of documents which are relevant to the issues in a criminal trial.

On November 13 1992, *The Times* published a letter from the Attorney-General following the decision of Judge Smedley in the Matrix Churchill trial that documents for which the Crown had claimed PII should be disclosed to the defendants. Sir Nicholas explained that ministers had been advised by him that because the documents fell within categories capable of attracting PII, ministers "were required by law to claim PII on behalf of the Crown". Sir Nicholas stated that whether the interests of justice in the particular case took priority over the interests of confidentiality is a "decision for the court to make, not for the minister".

At the end of last month, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, gave evidence to Lord Justice Scott that in 1992 he wished to make certain documents available to the defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial but reluctantly signed PII certificates because he was told by the Attorney-General that he had a legal duty to do so.

The advice given by the Attorney-General is impossible to reconcile with principle, practice or precedent. As a matter of principle, ministers bear the primary responsibility for deciding whether the national interest requires the suppression of evidence. If a minister believes that no damage would be done by supplying the documents, or that such damage is too slight to justify denying the defence access to evidence which may help to establish innocence, it would be surprising were the law to require that a claim of PII must be made.

Prior to 1968 ministers had the power conclusively to decide when documents

should not be disclosed in legal proceedings. Legal developments since then have been designed to make ministerial refusals to disclose documents subject to judicial supervision. But the courts have no interest in compelling ministers to claim immunity for what they wish to disclose in a criminal trial, especially when judges are understandably reluctant to substitute their judgment for that of ministers on the consequences of disclosure for the public interest.

As a matter of practice, the Crown has frequently supplied to courts information for which it might be able to claim PII. It has done so because ministers have been satisfied that the public interest does not demand to the contrary in the particular case. Indeed, out of court, ministers regularly provide to Parliament, and to the press, material for which PII could be claimed in court proceedings. It would be extraordinary if the law were to forbid ministers from supplying in a criminal case what ministers have the legal power to publish out of court.

As a matter of precedent, there was until recently no case in which the court had ruled on whether the Crown could voluntarily make disclosure of material which might be covered by PII. It is true, as the Attorney-General has pointed out, that in 1989 Lord Justice Bingham stated on behalf of the Court of Appeal that asserting PII is a duty which cannot be waived. But, although the point did not arise in that case, Lord Justice Bingham also recognised that where the public interest is clearly in favour of disclosure of a document within a class covered by PII, there was no duty to claim PII, and voluntary disclosure could be made.

Last November, the point did arise in a case decided by the Divisional Court. In *ex parte Bennett*, the court held that in criminal cases, the prosecution may voluntarily disclose, without a court order, documents which might otherwise be covered by PII, so long as the prosecution itself has weighed the competing public interests and keeps a record of voluntary disclosures. This decision is inconsistent with the advice given, a year earlier, by the Attorney-General to Mr Heseltine.

Nevertheless, a sense of perspective is needed by those who seek to make the Attorney-General the scapegoat of the Scott enquiry. All lawyers, even Court of Appeal judges, make mistakes of legal interpretation. If infallibility is made a qualification for appointment as Attorney-General, the Prime Minister will have difficulty filling the post.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## Brief encounter

THE *Brief* new television series on Channel 4 which casts a critical eye on the legal system, next examines whether solicitors should be prohibited from having sex with their clients.

The issue follows recent comments by Mr Justice Thorpe, a family division judge, the women in divorce cases are an emotional low point and undignified to sexual advances.

Doctors are banned from sex with clients — so why not solicitors? asks *The Law Society* in a well pointed out that solicitors are not usually obliged to examine their clients' boxes.

### Newfaces

SLAUGHTER and May will be appointing seven new partners including two women, Niluf-Kheraj, 32, who was born in England and whose

## INNS AND OUTS



Partners Niluf-Kheraj, top, and Laura McRoberts

parents come from Pakistan, and Laura McRoberts, 33, on May 1. This brings its number of women partners to nine out of a total of 98. Miss Kheraj

joined as a lateral hiring from Norton Rose four years ago. Partner Melvyn Hughes says: "Twenty per cent of the firm's annual graduate intake is recruited from ethnic minorities and I'm sure that Miss Kheraj is the first partner of many."

### Writs fly

CLAIMS against British Coal over Vibration White Finger are mounting. So far more than 300 writs have been issued nationwide, with about 500 further claimants seeking advice.

The condition is found in employees who used tools such as pneumatic drills, grinders, or chain saws — the vibration damages the hands and arms. Four solicitors' firms have now set up a committee to co-ordinate

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# Lawyers in double fee dilemma

Could the move to introduce 'no win, no fee' cases in Britain weaken the integrity of lawyers? Frances Gibb reports

Radical plans by the Lord Chancellor to allow lawyers to take on cases for nothing and double their fees if they win are still struggling to get off the ground more than three years after the Courts and Legal Services Act came into force.

The proposals for American-style "no win, no fee" arrangements, or conditional fees, were one of the main planks of the Government's legal reforms. Aimed at improving access to justice, they are meant to help the increasingly large section of people who do not qualify for legal aid and cannot afford to pay private legal fees or risk huge court costs.

The idea is that lawyers take on a case for nothing. If successful, the lawyer can increase his ordinary legal fees by up to 100 per cent. Solicitors are keen to see it in action. But more than three years after the legislation was passed, the scheme is still running into obstacles.

First, there are drafting difficulties. Government officials are still trying to thrash out details of the order to go before Parliament. "They have proved much more complex than was anticipated," says a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's department.

Apart from these technical problems, the proposals have aroused, if not open hostility, then concern at the Bar and among some senior judges. Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, is understood to be worried that the arrangements could be used by the Treasury to justify legal aid cuts. A second concern, which he is believed to have put to the Lord Chancellor, is that the "no win, no

fee" arrangements are the thin end of the wedge and will encourage speculative litigation.

Last Saturday, the Bar Council discussed what attitude to take to "no win, no fee" arrangements which are intended, at first, to apply to personal injury, insolvency and human rights claims. Peter Birks, QC, chairman of the Bar's legal aid committee, says the Bar Council cannot dictate to barristers or advise them not to enter into any such arrangements with solicitors with their clients: "They are obviously free to do so if they wish," he says.

But there is concern at the Bar, he says, over the ethics of litigation which allows lawyers to increase their fees by 100 per cent.

There is such a stake in winning that ethical standards will slip?

are urging the American Bar Association to declare it unethical for lawyers to charge contingency fees on settlements that are virtually certain bets from the start.

But in this country controls on fees already exist in the shape of "taxation", the procedure which allows court taxing officers to reduce fees thought too steep, and this same procedure could be applied to conditional fees. The proposed English scheme is also much more modest than anything in America.

Initially, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, recommended that lawyers be allowed to increase their fees by only 20 per cent if they won a case. But the Law Society described this as far too low to encourage any lawyer to take the risk.

He then revised proposals so fees could be doubled in the case of a win. But even the revamped scheme has been dogged by criticism. Last November, the Lord Chancellor's own watchdog on legal services, his advisory committee under Lord Justice Slynn, made a public plea to Lord Mackay not to implement the system.

The committee was concerned about the proposed 100 per cent

uplift in fees, warning of the danger that in many personal injury cases such fees would then swallow up to half or even more of the damages won, which could result in injustice to those on often limited means.

"If the Lord Chancellor's permitted uplift comes into force, the plaintiff may have to pay his solicitor an additional sum equal to the whole amount of those costs," the committee said. "Inevitably this will reduce substantially the damages in the plaintiff's pocket."

The Law Society is trying to tackle this. Russell Wainman, an official, said the society wants to persuade the Lord Chancellor to impose limits on how much a solicitor could increase his charges to stop the legal fees wiping out more than, say, 25 per cent of the value of claims in small cases.

Another obstacle the scheme faces is the threat of costs. Winners in litigation are paid their costs by the other side. But people taking "no win, no fee" cases would be liable for costs, win or lose - either their own or the other side's.

The Law Society is still trying to tie up details of what it calls its "morning after" pill although, in

fact, the idea is that it works prophylactically.

The scheme envisages people being able to take out insurance for a flat-rate fee of, perhaps, £100, at the point when they are embarking on legal action. This would protect them against paying an opponent's costs. The society says it is to outline details of the scheme soon.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor said that he hoped the draft order for the regulations would be ready early next month. There will be one last chance for those principally involved to comment, and then the order should be laid before Parliament before the summer recess, he says.

Walter Merricks, assistant secretary-general at the Law Society, says: "We have no reason to suppose lawyers will be less than scrupulous. They have high ethical standards and I don't think conditional fees will affect a solicitor's proper duty to clients."

"If a solicitor can see a strong case, he or she ought to be able to back his own judgment and take the risk." Conditional fees were not a panacea, he added. "But they do give people an extra avenue which ought to be available."



There are fears that the pressure to win and be paid may lower lawyers' ethical standards

## Managing the human dimension

Firms should recruit lawyers with the right mix of personality and expertise

Last week Wembley Conference Centre played host to a human resources exhibition and conference. Few of the thousands attending were lawyers.

There should have been more: the profession may invest in legal training but it is weak on management, team-building and psychological skills. The dissatisfaction among associates, lack of succession planning and crumbling of partner loyalty all point to deficiencies in the human dimension within law firms.

The psychological health of a law firm depends on the mix of personalities as well as skills. Yet lawyers are usually hired for experience and technical expertise alone. One firm which has bucked this trend is Simon Olswang & Co. As a relatively small firm enjoying success and a reputation disproportionate to its size, Simon Olswang knows it cannot afford passengers or people who fail to fit in.

Overrun with applicants in 1992, it decided to winnow out those who would not fit the Olswang style. "Given the state of the market we needed to be even more sure of the people we took on," explained Julia Palca, Olswang's recruitment partner. After recommendations from the Institute of Personnel Management, Olswang hired Svend Holst Associates, specialist psychometric and management consultants.

Svend Holst uses psychometric instruments that, among other things, measure speed of thought and personality traits. "Just because an individual is well qualified it does not necessarily mean they are quick at thinking on their feet," said Roger Summerfield, the consultant who worked with Olswang. Mr Summerfield identified

the "profile" that would suit the firm. Olswang lawyers work in very small teams in which each individual has to take the initiative and assume a lot of responsibility.

Mr Summerfield then identified the kind of person who would succeed in the Olswang environment. Assessments are not infallible but do provide what he described as "an increased likelihood of success".

Olswang now asks candidates who reach the second interview stage - even up to prospective partner level - to undergo the assessment.

"The results of the assessment by themselves would never stop us from hiring somebody," says Ms Palca. "However, they do highlight features of the individual's personality which we may then want to discuss in an interview."

Olswang's approach is unusual. Lewis Silken, a larger firm, puts its emphasis on training its partners in recruitment interview skills. It is sceptical about the value of psychometric assessments. "The candidates get wise to the questions and can trick their way through the minefield," says Roger Alexander, the senior partner. Whatever the approach, many firms need to be more professional about how they select and develop staff.

"We were invited recently by the Board of Continuing Education within the Cambridge University law faculty to run a course with them on better recruitment techniques for solicitors," says Mr Summerfield. "It had to be cancelled because of lack of interest."

Given the costs of recruitment and penalties of picking the wrong person, that seems to be a shortsighted response.

EDWARD FENNELL



Julia Palca: "Need to be sure of staff"

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Several solutions suggest themselves. If there is no company legal department, the lawyers can move in-house. This is a precious change in status, however, for both the company and the lawyers, and they may not be ready for it. Another solution, which tends to work well, is to set the lawyers up in their own firm. The company gets priority service and the lawyers have their independence, relative security, and - for the size of firm - good quality work. A third solution is for the lawyers to move as a team to another law firm, perhaps smaller, where they can give the client the kind of service it needs.

We are happy to advise lawyers being pushed by their clients in this way. It makes a pleasant change. Candidates who come to us often wonder whether their following can be relied upon. Not many have to grapple with the problem - namely successful politicians - of being "led" by their "following".

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## Public interest immunity rulings

**Regina v Keane**  
Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth,  
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice  
Auld and Mr Justice Mitchell  
[Judgment March 14]

In criminal trials, *ex parte* applications in evidence of documents in the Crown's possession on the ground of public interest immunity or sensitivity were contrary to the general principle of open justice. The *ex parte* procedure was not to be adopted save on the application of the Crown and only for the specific purpose of testing a claim that public interest immunity or sensitivity justified non-disclosure.

The Court of Appeal so ruled in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Stephen John Keane, aged 31, against conviction at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Rogers, QC and a jury) of offences relating to the custody and control of counterfeit US\$100 notes and counterfeit materials and implements.

He was sentenced to concurrent terms amounting to six years imprisonment and an order was made for forfeiture of counterfeit currency. An application for leave to appeal against sentence was rejected.

Mr Mito Sylvester, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant, Mr Stephen Kramer for the Crown.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE**, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant did not give evidence. Essentially the case put was that the appellant was merely the driver, who knew nothing of incriminating articles and merely happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The grounds of appeal were based solely on the judge's rulings

as to disclosure and the scope of cross-examination he permitted of police officers. His Lordship referred to *R v Hennessey* (1993) 1 WLR 619, 90 Cr App R 324 and *R v Agar* (1989) 90 Cr App R 324 and said that the judge was wrong in refusing to order disclosure of the information sought and that the effect of his rulings was wrongly to leave the police witnesses as the sole arbiters of whether they should answer questions put in cross-examination.

At the time of the appellant's trial the procedural rules laid down following *R v Ward* (1993) 1 WLR 619 had not been reported although a transcript was quoted to the judge. *R v Davis* (1993) 1 WLR 619, 90 Cr App R 324, 1993 1 WLR 619 outlined the procedure to be followed where the Crown relied on public interest immunity or sensitivity.

Clearly the present case fell within paragraph (3) of the tabulation in *Davis* (Michael). The Crown should have notified the defence before the trial began that an *ex parte* application was to be made to the court, and such an application should have been made so that the trial judge could himself have seen the material and heard the Crown's reasons for not wishing to disclose it before making his ruling.

Their Lordships wished to stress that *ex parte* applications were contrary to the general principle of open justice in criminal trials.

They were sanctioned in *Davis* (Michael) solely to enable the court to discharge its function in testing a claim that public interest immunity or sensitivity justified non-disclosure of material in the Crown's possession and only for that purpose.

Accordingly, the *ex parte* procedure should not be adopted, save on the application of the Crown and only for that purpose.

Giving that where the prosecution relied on public interest immunity or sensitivity it was for the court to decide whether disclosure was to be made and the scope of cross-examination, what ought the court's approach to be?

As was shown by *Hennessey* and *Agar* the court had to carry out a balancing exercise. His Lordship referred to *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Osman* (No 4) (1991) 1 WLR 281, 289 where Lord Justice Mustill had said: "Where the interests of justice arise in a criminal case touching and concerning liberty... the weight to be attached to the interest of justice is plainly very great indeed."

The outcome of instances given by Lord Esher in *Marks v Beyfus* (1890) 25 QBD 494, 498 and *R v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Osman* (No 1) (1991) 1 WLR 281, 290 resulted from performing the balancing exercise, not from dispensing with it.

If the disputed material might prove the defendant's innocence or avoid a miscarriage of justice, then the balance came down resoundingly in favour of disclosing it.

The extent which the Crown wished to withhold evidence which might be of assistance to the defence was to be determined as follows.

1 It was for the prosecution to put before the court only those documents which it regarded as material but wished to withhold. As to the documents which were material their Lordships adopted the test suggested in the Central Criminal Court by Mr Justice Joffe in *R v Melvin* (Graham) (December 20, 1993):

...some patch attached to the body but was capable of a variety of meanings depending on its context.

Since Parliament intended to diminish the numbers of those who drove with alcohol inside their bodies there was no hiatus in the law whereby the entry of alcohol other than by mouth did not come under the 1988 Act.

Accordingly, a court was not entitled to restrict the meaning of "consuming" to the act of drinking and to no other mode of introduction or injection.

However, his Lordship did not propose to remit the case to the magistrates' court.

Lord Justice Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Liverpool; Lees Lloyd Whitley, Heston.

"I would judge to be material in the realm of disclosure that which can be seen on a sensitive appraisal by the prosecution: (1) to be relevant or possibly relevant to an issue in the case; (2) to raise or possibly raise a new issue whose existence is not apparent from the evidence the prosecution proposes to use; (3) to hold out a real, as opposed to fanciful, prospect of providing a lead on evidence which goes to (1) or (2)."

As had been pointed out later in that judgment, it was open to the defence to indicate to the prosecution a defence or an issue they proposed to raise to which material in the possession of the prosecution might be of assistance, and if that was done the prosecution might need to reconsider what should be disclosed.

Their Lordships endorsed the observations of the judge in that case as to the scope of the Crown's duty. It would be an abdication of that duty for the prosecution, out of an over-abundance of caution, simply to dump all its unused material into the court's lap and leave it to the judge to sort through it all regardless of its materiality to the issues present or potential.

The prosecution had to identify the documents and information which were material, according to the criteria set out above. Having identified what was material, the prosecution should disclose it unless they wished to maintain that public interest immunity or other sensitivity justified withholding some or all of it.

Only that part which was both material in the estimation of the prosecution and sought to be withheld should be put before the court for its decision.

If, in an exceptional case, the prosecution were in doubt about the materiality of some documents or information, the court might be asked to rule on that issue.

When the court was seized of the material the judge had to perform the balancing exercise by having regard to the one hand to the weight of the public interest in non-disclosure. On the other hand he had to consider the importance of the documents to the issues of interest to the defence, present and potential so far as they had been disclosed to him or he could foresee them.

Accordingly, the more full and specific the indication of the defence as to the materiality of the documents or issues they were likely to raise, the more accurately both prosecution and judge would be able to assess the value to the defence of the material.

In the present case, in the circumstances, there were no grounds for regarding the jury's verdict as unsafe or unsatisfactory and the appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: CPS, London.

## Identity parades must follow code

**Regina v Quinn**

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth,  
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice  
Mackay and Mr Justice  
Stuart

The statutory procedure for the conduct of identity parades was set out in a code of practice and it was not for police to substitute their own procedure or their own rules for what had been laid down.

It was to be hoped that either the police procedures would come into line immediately or, if it was necessary to change the rules, that that would be done in the appropriate manner.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by Francis Joseph Quinn against conviction at Norwich Crown Court (Judge Woodford and a jury) of one count, count 6, of robbery, for which he had been sentenced to six years imprisonment. He had been convicted at the same trial of seven other offences including another count of robbery, count 7, which was not subject to appeal.

The procedure for conducting identity parades appeared in Code D and Annex A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PCEA) Codes of Practice, (2nd edition, 1991). The grounds of appeal included criticisms of the conduct of an identity parade held in a Norwich police station at which the witness was in fact asked to make the identification was not by walking up and down at all.

It was clear that the witnesses did not walk along the parade at least twice. They said that they had no recollection of being asked to do so. Even if they had been asked to do so, it was a somewhat pointless direction because the manner the witness was in fact asked to make the identification was not by walking up and down at all.

Their Lordships had been told by prosecuting counsel that that was a standard procedure not only

at that particular police station but at other police stations also.

Their Lordships could only say that, where a detailed regime was laid down in a statutory code, it was not for police at one or more than one police station to substitute their own procedure or their own rules for what was laid down.

Their Lordships hoped that either they would come into line immediately or, if it was thought necessary to change the rules, that would be done in the appropriate manner. As long as there was a statutory code it was there to be observed and could not be varied at will.

The judge in his ruling on the *voir dire* had considered all the evidence relating to how the parade was conducted. The fact that there had been breaches, even several breaches of the code, was not conclusive whether the evidence should be admitted or not.

The judge on considering the breaches and the witnesses had had a discretion under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 not to admit the evidence if he considered it would have an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings, and the judge had concluded that he should not exclude the identification parade evidence.

Before the Court of Appeal could conclude that the judge was wrong in the way he regarded the evidence it would have to be satisfied that he could not reasonably have reached the conclusion that he had reached.

Their Lordships wished to make it perfectly clear, however, that they were not, indeed it was not within their power to do so,

extending *carte blanche* to police throughout the country to vary the mode of conducting identification parades in the hope or expectation that the judge trying the case or their Lordships' court would come to the conclusion readily that to admit evidence of breach of the code which was there to be observed and not to be breached.

The summing up was criticised on the basis that, despite the finding of certain breaches of the code and despite the undoubted problems, as prosecution counsel had said, of the parade, the judge had not given the jury a sufficiently clear direction on the issues raised.

Mr Deane said that, the judge, having directed to admit the identification evidence, he ought at the least to have drawn the jury's attention to the fact that there had been breaches of the code and to have invited the jury to consider the reasons why the code had been drawn in the way it had been drawn, in their estimation the breaches were such as to cause them to have doubts about the safety of the identification.

There was force in that submission. The centrality of that evidence to the prosecution case was the only real direct evidence of the case on count 6. Count 6 had been tried along with count 7 and one could not help feeling that the jury might have allowed their conviction on that to rub all on the view that the appellant was guilty on count 6 where it was identification or nothing.

The verdict on count 6 was quashed and that left the appellant's sentence to be six years instead of 12.

Solicitors: CPS, Norwich.

## Consuming through injection

**Director of Public Prosecutions v Johnson**

Before Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Schiemann  
[Judgment March 7]

Where a person was charged with driving having consumed alcohol so that the proportion of it in the breath exceeded the prescribed limit under section 5(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 the meaning of "consuming" was not limited to drinking.

Entry into the body other than by mouth was included.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by the prosecution against a decision of Liverpool City Magistrates' Court (Mr Jonathan Finestine, stipendiary magistrate) to acquit David Johnson of a charge under section 5(1)(a).

Section 5 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) If a person (a) drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a road or other public place... after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in his breath, blood or urine exceeds the prescribed limit he is guilty of an offence."

Mr Timothy Spencer for the prosecution; Mr Andrew Edis for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that the magistrate had found that the defendant had been injected by a doctor with Kenalog, which contained 1.5 per cent benzyl alcohol and had accepted that there was a reasonable possibility that that had affected the instrument reading.

The word "consuming" in its usual use did not embrace injecting or absorbing by way of injection or

some patch attached to the body but was capable of a variety of meanings depending on its context.

Since Parliament intended to diminish the numbers of those who drove with alcohol inside their bodies there was no hiatus in the law whereby the entry of alcohol other than by mouth did not come under the 1988 Act.

Accordingly, a court was not entitled to restrict the meaning of "consuming" to the act of drinking and to no other mode of introduction or injection.

However, his Lordship did not propose to remit the case to the magistrates' court.

Lord Justice Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Liverpool; Lees Lloyd Whitley, Heston.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 15 1994  
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**DANCE page 40**  
Only a hint of past  
greatness as the late  
Rudolf Nureyev is  
honoured in London

# ARTS

**THEATRE page 41**

All-singing, all-dancing  
golden girl: the versatile  
Millicent Martin is back  
on stage in live theatre



## And the winner is ... not British, it seems



Tom Hanks is set to win the Best Actor Oscar for *Philadelphia*, beating Northern Ireland's Liam Neeson in *Schindler's List*, odds-on for Best Film, while *The Piano*'s Holly Hunter (here with Anna Paquin) is the Best Actress favourite

The love affair between the Academy Awards and the British has long been an Oscar constant, but this may be the year that the British end up playing bridesmaid, making it to the altar only to watch the bouquet be thrown to somebody else.

This trend was sneakily apparent last year, Emma Thompson's best actress trophy for *Howards End* notwithstanding. How else were we to explain the supporting actress victory of Marisa Tomei (*My Cousin Vinny*), a little-known American nominee in a minor film, over three richly deserving Britons — Vanessa Redgrave (*Howards End*), Joan Plowright (*Enchanted April*) and Miranda Richardson (*Damages*)?

There hadn't been an upset like it since the 1983 best actor race when the lone American nominee — Robert Duvall (*Tender Mercies*) — trumped four British actors (Michael Caine, Tom Conti, Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney) to take the prize.

In the intervening decade, British performers have been regular Oscar victors, from Peggy Ashcroft,

Sean Connery and Michael Caine in supporting categories to the amazing 1989-91 best actor trioka of Daniel Day-Lewis (*My Left Foot*), Jeremy Irons (*Reversal of Fortune*), and Anthony Hopkins (*The Silence of the Lambs*).

Last year's award to Al Pacino, for *Scent of a Woman*, was Oscar's way of asserting the return of American leading men after the ego-bashing failures of such hopefuls as Tom Cruise (*Born on the Fourth of July*), and Nick Nolte (*The Prince of Tides*).

By the same logic, Tom Hanks (*Philadelphia*) looks like a shoo-in this year, and the fact that he's playing an AIDS sufferer (and very well, too) will help no end: he's a well-liked actor in a commercially successful film about a plague that has hit the film industry much harder than parades of presenters wearing red ribbons will ever make clear.

Hanks's principal competition comes from Day-Lewis, whose versatility long ago left Hollywood speechless. Day-Lewis is bound to pick up residual support from those voters honouring his dashing Newland Archer in *The Age of*

Uncle Oscar has become a favourite relative of this country's actors, but next week's Academy Awards are likely to see an estrangement, Matt Wolf predicts

*Innocence*, which was not nominated, as much as his tempestuous Gerry Conlon in *In the Name of the Father*, which was.

Anthony Hopkins, by contrast, won't reap the same benefits. His performance in *The Remains of the Day* and *Shadowlands*, while highly acclaimed, are both seen to occupy the same emotionally repressed point on the spectrum. Hopkins is not helped by the belief in certain Hollywood quarters that his *Silence* victory came in the leading actor category when many believed it to be a supporting performance. (The chilling spectre of

Hannibal Lecter may dominate the film, but he appears in only a handful of scenes.)

Nor is this likely to be Thompson's year. Hollywood can't get enough of her, as her double nominations for *Remains of the Day* and *In the Name of the Father*

bear out. And she will probably continue to be nominated for merely walking across the street (or, as in *Father*, the courtroom), so delighted is Hollywood at last to have a thirtysomething female British star of international allure. (The competition is slight: Natasha Richardson's films have mostly flopped, while Miranda's tend to be too weird or obscure or both.)

Whereas Thompson last year faced some competition from Susan Sarandon in *Lorenzo's Oil*, Holly Hunter's mute mother in *The Piano* has won so many prizes already that to deny

her best actress might precipitate an international incident.

Hunter is helped by the fact that the performance assumed early on to be her prime competitor, Michelle Pfeiffer in *The Age of Innocence*, was inexplicably not even nominated.

Academy guilt about the short shrift given Scorsese's film — Oscar favours only one period piece a year, and *Remains of the Day* easily filled that requirement — will aid Winona Ryder's supporting actress bid from the same film, although on merit that award should go to the astonishing Anna Paquin, 11, who played Hunter's daughter in *The Piano*.

In terms of quality, the supporting actor race is easily the year's toughest, and all five nominees could win in a leaner year. Ralph Fiennes (*Schindler's List*) is the obvious choice on merit alone, but *Schindler* will win enough elsewhere and voters may be put off rewarding an actor whose name they cannot pronounce. Surprise nominee Pete Postlethwaite could squeak in for *In the Name of the Father* just as Brenda Fricker, playing another real-life Irish par-

ent for director Jim Sheridan in *My Left Foot*, did four years ago.

But the fact remains that Tommy Lee Jones (*The Fugitive*) is a terrific actor in a terrifically successful movie; he lost several years back for *JFK* and may get his due now.

Still, anyone planning to bet this month's mortgage on the outcome should be aware that Hollywood is capricious: the more surprises during the ceremony, the more entertaining it will be. Alas, we in Britain will not be allowed the thrill of surprise: for the first time in years, no network or cable channel has any plan to show the Academy Awards ceremony live, which means that by the time highlights are aired (on the satellite station UKGold and Barry Norman's *Film 94*) the following night, the winners will be old news. And this in the country that, after America, annually offers up the most nominees.

The ceremony, as usual, is being beamed live around most of the rest of the globe: leave it to Britain. Oscar's perennial favourite, not to return the honour.

● The Academy Awards ceremony will be held on March 21

BEST OSCARS BETTING	
<b>BEST FILM</b>	1-7 <i>Schindler's List</i> , 9-2 <i>The Piano</i> , 9-1 <i>The Remains of the Day</i> , 10-1 <i>In the Name of the Father</i> , 25-1 <i>The Fugitive</i>
<b>BEST ACTOR</b>	8-11 Tom Hanks, 11-4 Anthony Hopkins, 9-2 Daniel Day-Lewis, Liam Neeson, 33-1 Larry Fishburne
<b>BEST ACTRESS</b>	1-5 Holly Hunter, 7-2 Angela Bassett, 7-1 Emma Thompson, 8-1 Debra Winger, 25-1 Stockard Channing
Odds courtesy of William Hill	

SOUL AND ROCK CONCERTS: An unfunny thing happens at the Forum ... Dionysus at the Apollo ... reggae for Reading ... long hair rules at the Astoria

## Family devalued

RECENT times have been strange for Womack & Womack. So strange, in fact, that they are no longer called Womack & Womack. These days they answer only to the collective name of the House of Zekkariyas.

Individually, Cecil Womack is now called Zekkariyas, while his wife Linda signs her cheques Zerilya. These names were adopted after a recent journey to Nigeria where spiritual ties were forged with an ancient tribe of the same name. Cosmically this is probably a great idea, but commercially it is bordering on the suicidal.

Just as bizarrely, having been dropped by Warners, their UK record company, the former Womacks found themselves in the curious position of playing a gig to help sell an album, *Transformation*, to the House of Zekkariyas, that would otherwise remain completely unpromoted.

They would doubtless use this as an excuse for the unforgivable shambles of a

**Womack & Womack**  
Forum, NW5

show they put on at the Forum. Abetted by a heavy-handed six-piece band, they wasted no time in systematically annihilating their own back catalogue and then went to work on other people's.

"Baby I Need Your Loving" was little more than a sketch and Sam Cooke's "Wonderful World" was crippled by some woefully approximate harmonies and agonising vocal extemporisation.

Before the fifth song was through, the former Cecil had not only removed his ceremonial African robes but had whipped off his shirt to reveal an impressive paunch and a livid scar beneath his rib cage.

Meanwhile, the former Linda clattered noisily on assorted percussion instruments and periodically skipped centre-stage to join her husband at the microphone. Quite the most shocking

aspect was their singing voices: Linda, who on record seems to possess a silky croon, squawked horribly and frequently went to the very limits of what musicologists call "being in tune", while Cecil rarely did more than issue a series of guttural grunts plainly believing these to be impossibly soulful.

All too soon the inevitable happened. The band struck up the intro to "Tear Drops", the Womacks' superbly loose-limbed anthem, and we were witness to the brutal murder of a modern soul classic. The song's handsomely hypnotic rhythm was reduced to a clumsy chug, and the coolly consistent melody was all but forgotten. Surely there is a law to prevent this sort of thing happening.

The far-from-full house did their darndest to get involved, but there was no getting away from the infuriating fact that they were being tossed a tatty one.

ADRIAN DEEVOY



Linda and Cecil Womack would now like to be known as the House of Zekkariyas, OK?

## The bard of bed and bawd

R. KELLY is the soul superstar who crept up on the blind side. He has

R. Kelly  
Apollo,  
Hammersmith

but the order of the 1990s is for lyrics of steamshovel subtlety and lascivious

stage behaviour. Following an inordinate wait after Zane's set, the shaven-headed and lanky Kelly eventually made his entrance swathed in dry ice and to a musical melodrama that could not have been much more over-the-top. The audience, noticeably female, took the bait, and from the first pelvic thrust they were willing sinners at a celebration of saute.

With Kelly's current, typically demonstrative single "Bump n' Grind" on top of the American R&B charts and in the Top Ten of the pop lists, early London believers were treated to a bumper bill that also included the two-girl Motown posse Zane. Their simple but effective 1970s retro soul was hamstrung by a poor sound, but "Groove Fang", their American hit of the moment and "Hey Mr DJ", last year's moderate UK success, breathed a little life into the building.

Kelly also has a number subtitled "Hey Mr DJ", but there the similarity ends. This is a serious huwre man. In previous decades, this entitled the sporting of CD-sized medallions and quilted chests.

Take away the carnal capers and you're left with a formula souler of moderate-to-strong voice, who broke the mood just once to dedicate the by-the-numbers ballad "Sadie" to his mother.

With songs like the hit "Sex Me" and "I Like The Crotch On You", Kelly can probably forget a career as a cryptic crossword compiler, and as the bard of bawdy got back to the pouring and pumping, you began to imagine the queue at the dressing room door stretching up towards Shepherd's Bush.

PAUL SEXTON

MINUTES before the 10.30pm curfew, two children, knee-high to just about everybody in this Reading sports hall, clambered on to the stage that had hitherto belonged to Chaka Demus & Pliers. Rough Cut, one of Britain's premier reggae backing bands, were flexing their bass strings around "Bam Bam", the Maytels-inspired tune that has given the Jamaican DJ and singer double-act just one of his hits.

Supple beyond their tender years, the kids worked through the battery of pelvic swivels that characterises the reggae dance. Even Demus, a formidable sized man swathed in yellow silk, and the mellifluous Pliers looked surprised.

The kids drew howls of approval, but then so did the main chance. With their *Zease Me* album only just out of the No 1 slot and a swatch of hit singles besides, Chaka Demus & Pliers are on a roll. They are a well-matched couple, embracing the disparate moods

## Toast of the town

**Chaka Demus & Pliers**  
Rivermead, Reading

of soul, lover's rock and reggae. Pliers specialises in a melodic soul vocal: Demus's granular toasting style has captured the modern regga sensibility.

This diversity was reflected by an audience which, in a larger civic venue, would be more homogenous. White soul boys mingled with the black dance-hall crowd. Teenagers were out in force. Parents had brought their kids. It was a gratifying turnout, not least

because Demus, Pliers and the elegant Rough Cut play on the beat that throbs at the heart of all dance music.

"Riddim!" bellowed Demus as the band bent under the weight of his bouncy dance. "Gal Wine" segued into "Whining Machine", with its Tootsy "Monkey Man" riff. The space between the bass droplets hummed before Rough Cut added some brass stabs.

Beginnings and endings were hard to discern — and this is the wit in this music. The beats flowed easily as each song was woven with the riffs of its subsequent numbers. There was a sweet tension in anticipating the patterns of each song.

The eponymous single from the album broke through after "Murder She Wrote" and Curtis Mayfield's "She Don't Love Nobody". Its rumbling rhythms were given an ecstatic — in the old sense of the word — welcome.

LOUISE GRAY

## Very 'eavy, very 'umble

**Raging Slab/Paw**  
Astoria 2, W1

ANNOUNCING themselves as the "anointed purveyors of the dynamite monster boogie", Raging Slab arrived on stage in a swirl of leopard-skin jackets, flared trousers and lots of long hair. Their outlandish name has undoubtedly thrown some people off the scent, but along with the old-hippy culture, it is actually indicative of the faintly surreal sense of humour which is part and parcel of this extraordinary five-piece band from Pennsylvania.

Mixing a distinctly end-of-the-alphabet cocktail of influences — ZZ Top, Zeppelin and Zappa — they combined bluesy southern boogie with heavy rock riffing in odd time signatures, and laced it with occasional outbursts of arch, comic weirdness. Led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Greg Strzempka they romped through a highly entertaining set that ranged from the heavy

slide-guitar stomp of "Pearly" (shades of Jo Jo Gunne) to the haunting, country-flavoured ballad "Lynne", for which Strzempka and bassist Alec Morton switched to violin and mandolin respectively.

It ended with a hilarious "tribute" to Stone Temple Pilots, a version of "Push" that found Strzempka emoting like a madman, before being wrestled to the ground by a "fan" who later seemed on suspiciously friendly terms with the Slab road crew.

Earlier, the co-headliners Paw ploughed a massive amount of energy into a set that lacked the Slab's ironic wit, but was no less of a spectacle in its way. Call it post-grunge, thrash or what you will, but in reality the

hotly tipped four-piece from Kansas is one of the new breed of heavy metal bands. Basically, this means that, as well as pounding out riffs that resemble a seismic tremor on songs like "Jessie" and "Gasoline", they also pride themselves on being able to knock a tuneless chorus into shape.

Apart from the fact that guitarist Grant Fitch and singer Mark Hennessy spent most of the gig stomping about the stage like men engaged in a bout of tag wrestling, they also looked fairly normal.

When he wasn't roaring like a wounded bull, Hennessy sounded rather like John Hiatt, and behaved like a thoroughly likable chap, distributing endless bottles of beer and occasional glasses of whisky among the mass of outstretched hands at the front.

DAVID SINCLAIR

### IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

Richard Cork reviews the exciting new Goya exhibition at the Royal Academy, a hundred paintings that illuminate his entire career

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Back in the business of live theatre: "Under the familiar auburn hair, Millicent Martin's round face is wearing the look of someone whose time has come round once again"

## A golden girl comes of age

Famed as the 'girl from TW3', Millicent Martin has found new fulfilment on the stage. She talks to Peter Barnard

The entertainment business has an unhappy tendency to honour the specialist above the generalist and the young above the — what shall we say? — mature. Add to this the perception that if you are not regularly on television you might as well be dead and it may be wondered what right Millicent Martin has to be perched on the edge of an armchair looking healthy, happy and very much in show business.

Martin is — what shall we say this time? — on the far side of 50. She is an actress, dancer and singer which, as she says, is a trade description spoken in England along the grudging lines: "Well, you know, she acts a bit, sings a bit, dances a bit." But in America, as she also points out, this means "you are regarded as a triple threat".

That is not the reason Martin lives in Connecticut. The reason is that her husband is Marc Alexander, the American voice coach. They have been together for 18 years and, for what he does, he needs proximity to New York whereas, for what she does, any job is just a flight away.

This week's job is at the Theatre Royal Bath, in Ivan Menechell's *The Cemetery Club*, the golden girls comedy which Martin is touring in for the second time, on this occasion with Carmen Silvera and Ann Charleston. The age of the lead players is not the least of the reasons why, under the familiar auburn hair, Martin's round face is wearing the look of someone whose time has come again.

Sunday morning in the lounge of the old and elegant Bath Spa hotel is as good a place as most to reflect on a career which went public in the most

spectacular way 30 years ago with the launch of *That Was The Week That Was*, in which Martin was the sole leading woman and for which she sang the opening and closing number as well as acting in sketches. She, along with TW3's producer Ned Sherrin and its anchor David Frost, had the good fortune to be front and centre on a show that would go into television history, much as no one knew it at the time.

"I'd done some songs for another television show Ned produced and so he rang me up to do the pilot for this," she says. "It must have been the longest pilot show in history. I came in, did the opening song, went away, got on a plane and flew to Spain for a holiday and I'd arrived there before they finished recording."

The pilot lasted three hours but it scored with the BBC brass and went out, live, at one hour, for an initial six-week series, followed by an extension and a second series: 26 shows in all. During it the Profumo scandal started to break and Martin recalls singing a song about that, before the full story was known, which contained some of the first song lyrics in television history to be edited by lawyers.

The programme had benefits beyond its superficial success as the launch forum for television satire. "TW3 taught you how to behave yourself," Martin says. "When you're live you have this group responsibility, you don't upstage people, you don't jump in on other people's lines because, if you do, nobody is going to

help you when you make a mistake. You have to respect each other."

Martin, born an Essex girl long before the description acquired connotations, had been brought up mostly in north London. She has never lost the accent and indeed she refused all inducements to do so. She trained as a dancer and, before TW3, she had made the West End as an understudy in *Gypsy* and *Dolls* and *South Pacific* and later appeared in her own right in *The Boy Friend*.

They are now writing parts for slightly more mature ladies?

She still talks lovingly of dancing. I tell her that my five-year-old daughter has started going to ballet lessons, and she lights up: "I still tap dance as well as doing other exercises. I see a tap teacher in America. I don't feel well unless I exercise. Dancing is so good for young people, it will give them good posture later in life and it overcomes that spell when young people are so awkward in their movements."

After TW3 Martin got her own television show, *Mainly Millicent*, but then her television profile lowered until the 1989 series *Moon 9*

for the BBC, at which point she strikes an unhappy note. "It ran for one series and we attracted audiences of eight million, which we thought was pretty good up against *Inspector Morse* on ITV."

"We were told there would be a second series but three weeks before we went into rehearsal we got phone calls to say it was off. I never understood why. Things work, things don't work, we all know that, but at the end of the first series all the signs were that they liked it, so I was insulted at the way they called it off. I would have been grateful for a little more grace."

This magnificent understatement emerges softly (she is troubled by bronchitis) but the eyes tell of a certain anger reflected in tranquillity. But the mood soon passes. Onward and upward! Over the next hill!

Having been the right sort of age (28) for the youthful TW3, Martin now finds herself in the right age group at the right time. At last, theatrical middle age has found several voices, thanks in some measure to the transatlantic television success of *The Golden Girls*.

"Luckily they're now writing parts for slightly mature ladies and I'm one of the beneficiaries of this new thing, which is great. I'm around at the right time. There have always been wonderful parts for men over 50 but there used to be this magazine image, you know, if you had two wrinkles you couldn't do anything."

"Now the business is more realistic and of course there's a fantastic

group of people to mine. Look at Diana Rigg, or Pauline Collins, or Judi Dench. They can still do it. You have to break the mould thing. I was pigeon-holed as a singer because I sang a lot but I've always loved comedy acting. A good actor can do all of it, it's part of the bag of tricks."

As well as *The Cemetery Club* Martin has toured successfully in *Shirley Valentine*, the original, one-woman show version which Martin likes better than the film "because the original doesn't split up Willy Russell's wonderful writing and give bits of it to other people."

Martin travelled America for two years as Shirley Valentine, a character American women in the audience identified with as strongly as they did in Britain. "Women would say that they felt the piece described their own feelings and helped them make decisions about their own lives," Martin says. "To help people in that way is amazing, a real bonus."

Martin comes across as being balanced, pretty much at ease with herself. She gets homesick once a year and fulfils that need with tours like the present one, or purely social visits to see friends. She regrets not pursuing a recording career: having signed up with George Martin she "didn't pursue that as well as I should have done. I was a bit stupid, I didn't take care of it."

She is also slightly galled to find herself listed by the British bureaucracy as "non-resident", and indeed she and her husband are considering a new base. Can this possibly mean...? "We want somewhere without much rain, rain is something I can't stand." Oh well, I only asked.

● *The Cemetery Club* is at the Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 448844) until Saturday

### LONDON CONCERTS

## Too little pity in the poetry

CUMS/Cleobury  
Albert Hall

Kiri and Carreras may fill the Albert Hall, but the audience for a *War Requiem* tends to be small and sombre — an assembly of the devoted, eager to accept a Peace Pledge Union hand-bill or two on the way in.

Any performance of Britten's masterpiece, written for the restored Coventry Cathedral 20 years after the war which had devastated it, is always aware of the abiding sense of occasion and the expectations of the work still set up. Stephen Cleobury's, on Sunday, marking the 50th anniversary of the Cambridge University Musical Society (whose orchestra and chorus were joined by the Bach Choir and the choristers of Ely Cathedral), was no exception.

Every second was meticulously planned: the placing of the boys, invisibly, in a high, side gallery; the positioning of the soprano soloist in the organ loft; the calculation of the precise length of every resonating choral consonant; the balance of every shifting orchestral texture.

With the soloists, too, nothing was left to chance. Deborah Riedel sang true and clear, Michael George's baritone was as dark and steady as the "long black arm" of the great gun cursed by Wilfred Owen's words and Britten's setting of them. Martyn Hill's

faultless control and minute shaping of "One ever hangs where shelled roads part" epitomised the beauty of vocal placing and enunciation in his performance.

All this care and intelligence, though, rarely led the listener beyond the remarking of it. The score is prefaced by Owen's own words on "War, and pity of War". They have, perhaps, been quoted once too often; but "The poetry is in the pity" and any performance which fails to re-create in the listener more than a cerebral acknowledgement of this pity and this terror has fallen short.

This performance was strongest on the cold anger and irony which patters and stutters out of the mock militarism of so much of Britten's writing. But when it came to the subtle modulation of tone of voice at "each slow dusk", when it came to the engagement of the very core of the singer with the despair within Owen's repeated questions, and when suppleness and a sense of time and silence were also needed, this performance lost its nerve. Nothing less than "titanic tears" are required from this music, these words.

HILARY FINCH

## Miniature master

ECO/Zumalave  
Festival Hall

The centenary of Frederic Mompou last year passed un- sung. But thanks to the Spanish Arts Festival friends have now been made with a concert in his honour given by the English Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Maximino Zumalave.

Mompou was born in Barcelona but studied at the Paris Conservatoire and spent a further 20 years in France after the First World War. His reputation, such as it is, is based on the miniatures — songs and piano pieces — that form the bulk of his oeuvre. In that sense this concert presented an unrepresentative, but neglected, side of the composer, for its major offering was a large-scale work for voices and orchestra entitled *Los Improperios*.

The *Variations on a Theme of Chopin*, with which the concert began, originated at the end of the Thirties as a set of variations for cello and piano on the celebrated Prelude in A Major. Anyone reeling as I did out of the first act of Berg's contemporary *Lulu* next door and into the Mompou *Variations* will have suffered a severe culture shock. For Mompou's genial, gracefully fashioned piece (tastefully orchestrated by Josep Soler) breathed the air of another planet.

In *Los Improperios*, a setting of the Veneration of the Cross liturgy for Good Friday, the overriding influence seems to be Poulenc — especially the Poulenc of the Gloria.

The baritone Iñaki Fresn brought a superbly rich, well-schooled voice to bear on the solo role, while the fresh-toned Coro Principal de Asturias supplied the choral part. This was the work's London premiere.

The third Mompou item on the programme, a sequence of three songs entitled *Combat del Somni*, was delivered with local colour and style by Maria Bayo, who also sang the *Cuatro madrigales amorosos* by Rodrigo.

In a rather different vein, the Cantos de pleamar ("Songs of High Tide"), by Antón García Abril, combined a rich tonal palette with inventive contrapuntal working and a slightly unfortunate penchant for a falling-fourth ostinato figure that seemed to herald the approach of the emergency services.

If Mompou's *Variations* were out of step with the zeitgeist of the Thirties, one might almost have placed Abril's score in that very decade. In fact, it was written last year and this was its British premiere.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on a new production in Richmond of a nightmarish little drama by Strindberg

## Mother's wicked ways

The Pelican  
The Room.  
Orange Tree

Along with the many other worries Strindberg burdened himself with, he added a want of judgment. For years he had schemed for what we would now call a studio theatre where his more compressed dramas could be staged in intimate surroundings. When the Intimate Theatre at last opened its doors in 1907, with a stage described as "tiny" — six metres long by four metres deep — what should he decide to present but this bemusing little drama of a mother who starves her children by giving them skimmed milk, thin porridge and burnt quail?

After Strindberg's death, Max Reinhardt successfully staged the play as a nightmare, though Elvira Martinus,

whose able translation this production uses, indicates a preference for playing it in a starkly realistic way. Nightmare effects cannot be easily created on a stage half the size of the Intimate's, and the in-the-round to boot. Sean Holmes's production manages the spooky business of the rocking chair that rocks by itself but the play ends with the house on fire and the teenage children in each other's arms, ecstatically recalling happy summer holidays before expiring in the flames.



Son and daughter: Alan Westaway and Charlotte Williams

I can think of no way this climax could work in the round except by focusing pools of fierce red light on the doomed pair and making them grow fiercer and redder. Holmes does light the stage with red bulbs diffused through sheets but it doesn't

work as he must have hoped. Yet if a nightmarish, symbolist style is rejected, how can we accept the events as some kind of common reality? Jan Waters gives the Mother the dyspeptic look of a mean parent, the corners of her mouth peevishly downturned,

and a snappy disregard of any ventured criticism. But who is she? Why did she send Gerda and Fredrik off to school with nothing inside them but chivalry and a bread roll? Did the father, eventually driven to his death when she seduced her son-in-law, never check the housekeeping? Did the whey-faced kids never raid the store cupboard? These questions are not frivolous but keep coming to the fore because Strindberg could not bring himself to understand the character of his wicked heroine. Force of evil nature and outwitted mother-in-law: the two cannot inhabit the same skin.

The faces of the cast are good: Brett Fancey as Axel, the sulky son-in-law proud of his neat little beard; Alan Westaway as the dazed, studious son; Charlotte Williams, the frail, tense, porcelain-skinned daughter. They argue and alter position around the strip of carpet at the centre of the stung-room furniture, and the play does have its moments of suspense with the incriminating letter to be found where the mother has thrown it in the stove left unlit for economy's sake — ah, the irony of it. Thus do the Pelican chicks fly home to roost.

ments of suspense with the incriminating letter to be found where the mother has thrown it in the stove left unlit for economy's sake — ah, the irony of it. Thus do the Pelican chicks fly home to roost.

A change of cast and conductor does the trick at the Royal Opera

## Incandescent splendours

Rigoletto  
Covent Garden

For him, it's no good pussy-footing through early Verdi — you need to go for it, and they did. It was incandescent.

For the second time in a week there was a memorable house debut, this time from the American soprano Maureen O'Flynn as Gilda. Her voice is beautifully pure and sweet, her technique sure. "Caro nome" was sung with assured style, and her poised pianissimos in the death scene would melt even a critic's

heart. She is a refreshingly unaffected artist, singing and acting straight from the heart. Alexandru Agache, joining the cast in the title role, is one of the very few genuinely heroic Verdi baritones around. His voice is voluminous and richly coloured, and the occasional uncertainty of pitch that

marred his otherwise superb *Boccanegra* in 1991 seems happily to be a thing of the past. This was confident, big-boned Verdi singing, fired down to plangent softness in the "Piangi" section of the Act II duet with Gilda. It didn't look as if he had been overburdened with rehearsal, but he is one of those singers with a touch of the earth-spirit to him, and he carried the evening through conviction.

Surviving from the first cast

was Francisco Araiza, singing the Duke with relaxed elegance and gamely playing him as an absolute rat. He certainly kept the conductor on his toes with a certain freedom of tempo in "Parmi veder". Peter Siddons's thunderous Monterone and Alastair Miles's creepily psychopathic Sparafucile made a strong impression.

The only frisson in the production came from three cigarettes defiantly puffed on stage on National No Smoking Day. I hope the Royal Opera doesn't lose its grant for this delicious display of political incorrectness.

RODNEY MILNES

## THE TIMES OWN YOUR OWN

The first major exhibition of the work of Francisco Goya for 30 years

opens on March 17 at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London, W1.

Goya: Truth and Fantasy will contain about 100 small-scale paintings drawn from private collections, museums and galleries.

The exhibition, which runs until June 12, is mounted in association with *The Times*, Classic FM and with support from Iberia Airlines.

To celebrate the power of Goya's art, *The Times* is offering readers a free reproduction print of Goya's 1794-95 painting *Self-Portrait* in the studio owned by Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid. The reproduction print measures 510mm x 360mm including border and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE GOYA

Collect six tokens from *The Times* (the first was printed in *The Times* Magazine last Saturday, March 12, and one will be printed everyday this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in *The Times* Magazine on Saturday, March 12. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free reproduction print framed will also appear in the Weekend section on Saturday, March 19.



Self-Portrait in the Studio (detail), c.1794-95



TOKEN 2



**Put your  
select  
talent  
the to**

His energy and spirit were unquenchable. Until very recently, he was still playing cricket for his own El Vino's team. I had always hoped he would be allowed to go out with a glass in his hand and with cricketer pals around him, and he came gratifyingly close.

Cup last year after making excessive demands of the management, was selected yesterday to lead the team in the world group first-round match against Hungary in Besencon from March 25 to 27. Fioline, the world No 12, will be joined by Arnaud Boetsch, Henri Lecointe and Olivier Delaite. Last year, Fioline insisted her training sessions should not be watched by other team members.

Clague while Alison Wyeth, a close second to Paula Radcliffe in the women's national, is reserve after finishing behind Galloway.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
 The undersigned hereby certifies that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the records of the undersigned.  
 Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of June 1906.  
 J. H. [Signature]  
 [Seal]



A new competition to brighten the 1994 cricket season

# Put your talents to the test

THE start of the cricket season is less than a month away and *The Times*, in association with Canon UK Ltd, has joined the Test and County Cricket Board in an exclusive arrangement to produce a game that will keep armchair cricket-lovers happy throughout the season. *Play The Times First Class XI* and you can use your skills as a cricket selector to win a trip for two to any Test match anywhere in the world next year.

Every run your players make and every wicket they take will count towards your score. Choose your players from the list on the right and use the First Class XI bat to record your selection. You can enter by post or by telephone. There are no artificial additives, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of cricketing knowledge and selection skill. Pick your team, and follow your players' progress in *The Times*, the paper for cricket.

How to play: Simply pick the team that you think will accumulate the most runs and wickets in the first-class cricket of the season. We have listed 269 players, all registered with the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), and placed them in the following categories:

Batsmen (numbered 001-113); all-rounders (114-156); wicketkeepers (157-176); bowlers (177-269).

There are also three secondary categories: Captains (18), one from each county; overseas players (19), one from each county and rising stars (20), promising players as selected by *The Times*.

Your team of 11 must be made up as follows: five batsmen; one all-rounder; one wicketkeeper; four bowlers. No other combination will be accepted and players may only be selected as categorised by *The Times*. (For example, Graeme Hick may only be chosen as an all-rounder, not as a batsman.) Each player has a number which must be used when selecting him for the game.



There are three further restrictions to your selection.

1) In your XI, you must pick one — and no more than one — from the list of captains. For example, if you pick Alec Stewart (captain of Surrey), he will count as captain and batsman. You may not pick another captain, even from another playing category.

2) You must also pick one — and no more than one — of the players listed in the overseas players category.

3) You must pick one — and no more than one — of the players in the rising stars category. Your rising star may be a batsman, all-rounder, wicketkeeper or bowler.

In addition to the 11 players picked for the team, you must select one reserve for each of the primary categories (batsmen, all-rounders, wicketkeeper, bowlers). No captains, overseas players or rising stars may be selected as reserves. These reserves will only become active in the event of a first-choice player being officially declared inactive (for reasons of injury) for the rest of the season by *The Times* First Class XI panel. In that case your reserve will be automatically activated and

his score from that moment will be added to the injured player's total. Only one replacement will be allowed in each of the four primary categories. A player declared inactive cannot re-enter the game. Having selected your team, you may give it a name.

How to score: Scores will be measured by the following means: runs (the aggregate runs scored by all 11 players); wickets (the wickets taken by all 11 players); wicketkeeping dismissals (catches and stumpings made by your wicketkeeper).

Each run will count as one point, each wicket as 20 points, each wicketkeeper's dismissal as 20 points (the last two categories will be listed under the heading, wickets). The total of runs and wickets will represent the entrant's total team score. The object of *The Times* First Class XI is to select the 11 players that will accumulate the most points.

In the event of a tie, competitors will be separated by counting the score of their reserves. If that is insufficient, the score of the rising star will be decisive. If a further tie-break is necessary, the final tied competitors will be asked to pick their player of the season and explain why.

All matches deemed to be first-class by the TCCB (five, four or three days) will count. One-day matches will not count. At the end of each round of matches and each competition period, *The Times* will publish the list of categorised names and their updated aggregate point scores.

How to enter: There are five separate competitions. First, the main competition which runs throughout the 1994 English cricket season and for which entries must be received no later than April 13. Then there are four short competitions covering the matches which take place between April 13-May 23; May 24-June 27; June 28-August 8; August 10-September 19.

Entries for the main competition (which may be made by post or by telephone) will also qualify automatically for all four short competitions. Entry details for the individual short competitions (numbers two, three and four) will be published later.

The winners will be the entrants who have the highest points scores after the last match in each competition period and their names will be published in *The Times* with the names and scores of the leading 100 entrants.

You may enter any of the competitions as many times as you like but each entry requires a separate telephone

THE TIMES

To enter by phone: call

0891 500181

Calls cost 34p a minute (cheap rate, 44p a minute at other times. Calls last around 6 minutes).

Your Personal Identification Number

Code Name

BATS MEN (001 - 113)

ALL-ROUNDER (114 - 156)

WICKETKEEPER (157 - 176)

BOWLERS (177 - 269)

RESERVES

BATS MAN

ALL-ROUNDER

WICKETKEEPER

BOWLER

TEAM NAME

(up to 16 characters)

CHECK THAT YOU HAVE SELECTED

One captain ☐ One overseas player ☐One rising star ☐

To enter by post (please use block capitals)

NAME

ADDRESS

AGE IF UNDER 18 TELEPHONE No.

4A Church Green, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2TP. Entries must be accompanied by two first class stamps

Send your entries to: Times First Class XI

4A Church Green, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2TP. Entries must be accompanied by two first class stamps

calls or original entry form (photocopies will not be accepted). Telephone callers must be aged 18 or over.

Entries, whether made by telephone or mail, will be acknowledged by letter including a computer printout of your team selection and an official scorecard. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Entering by telephone: The 24-hour telephone lines are open now and close at noon on April 13. When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 0891 500 181.

The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference

numbers) for each of your 11 chosen players in the following order: the five batsmen, the all-rounder, the wicketkeeper, the bowlers. You will then be asked to name your reserve (in the same order). Make sure that the numbers you give fall within the range for each category (ie batsmen, 001-113; all-rounders, 114-156; wicketkeepers, 157-176; bowlers 177-269). Make sure you have picked one captain, one overseas player and one rising star in your team. An incorrect entry will be void.

You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be given an eight-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Entering by post: Each postal application must be made on an original entry form (no photocopies) and accompanied by two first-class

stamps (which will be used to acknowledge entry). Send them to *The Times* First Class XI, 4A Church Green, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2TP. Entries must arrive by noon on April 13.

Team names: Competitors may give their teams any name of up to 16 characters although if a name is considered to be in poor taste by the panel, or if that name has already been taken, the competitor's surname will be used.

*The Times* First Class XI panel: Ray Illingworth, the new chairman of the England Committee, Michael Atherton, the England captain, and Alan Lee, the cricket correspondent of *The Times*, form the panel which has final authority on any issues arising.

Junior competition: The game is open to postal entries from readers under the age of 18 and there will be a separate schools competition. Details will be announced later.

## THE FIRST CLASS XI PLAYERS

## Batsmen (001-113)

Pick five players and a reserve from this category

- 001 C J Adams (Derbyshire)
- 002 J C Adams (Nottinghamshire)
- 003 G F Archer (Nottinghamshire)
- 004 Asif Din (Warwickshire)
- 005 M A Atherton (Lancashire)
- 006 C W J Athey (Surrey)
- 007 R J Bailey (Northamptonshire)
- 008 K J Barnett (Derbyshire)
- 009 M B Benson (Kent)
- 010 D J Bicknell (Surrey)
- 011 T J Boon (Leicestershire)
- 012 P D Bowler (Derbyshire)
- 013 N J Boucher (Gloucestershire)
- 014 B C Broad (Gloucestershire)
- 015 A D Brown (Surrey)
- 016 D Byes (Yorkshire)
- 017 D Carr (Middlesex)
- 018 P A Collyer (Gloucestershire)
- 019 G R Cowdrey (Kent)
- 020 R M F Cox (Hampshire)
- 021 J P Crawley (Lancashire)
- 022 M A Cresswell (Nottinghamshire)
- 023 T S Curtis (Worcestershire)
- 024 J A Daley (Durham)
- 025 W A Dassar (Nottinghamshire)
- 026 D B Davies (Worcestershire)
- 027 N H Fairbrother (Lancashire)
- 028 N A Felton (Northamptonshire)
- 029 A A Fordham (Surrey)
- 030 A Forshaw (Northamptonshire)
- 031 G Fowler (Durham)
- 032 J E H Galloway (Lancashire)
- 033 P H Gibson (Middlesex)
- 034 G A Gooch (Essex)
- 035 P Grayson (Yorkshire)
- 036 K Greenfield (Sussex)
- 037 W Hall (Surrey)
- 038 T H C Hancock (Gloucestershire)
- 039 R J Harden (Somerset)
- 040 A N HAYHURST (Somerset)
- 041 D J Haynes (Gloucestershire)
- 042 D L Kemp (Gloucestershire)
- 043 S G Hicks (Gloucestershire)
- 044 P A Hogg (Gloucestershire)
- 045 A J Hollands (Surrey)
- 046 N Hussain (Essex)
- 047 R C Irwin (Durham)
- 048 R C Irwin (Durham)
- 049 S P James (Gloucestershire)
- 050 P Johnson (Nottinghamshire)
- 051 M A Keen (Gloucestershire)
- 052 S A Kellott (Yorkshire)
- 053 N V Knight (Essex)
- 054 P Knight (Nottinghamshire)
- 055 M N Latham (Somerset)
- 056 W Larkins (Durham)
- 057 D A Leathhead (Worcestershire)
- 058 N Leatham (Surrey)
- 059 J B Lewis (Essex)
- 060 N J Long (Kent)
- 061 J Lopley (Durham)
- 062 M B Loye (Northamptonshire)
- 063 M A Lynch (Surrey)
- 064 M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)
- 065 A A Metcalfe (Yorkshire)
- 066 T C Middleton (Hampshire)
- 067 J A Miles (Worcestershire)
- 068 A M Moody (Worcestershire)
- 069 H Morris (Gloucestershire)
- 070 J E Morris (Durham)
- 071 S M Murrells (Gloucestershire)
- 072 D M Murrells (Gloucestershire)
- 073 D M Murrells (Gloucestershire)
- 074 M C J Nicholas (Hampshire)
- 075 T J O'Gorman (Derbyshire)
- 076 P J O'Neil (Gloucestershire)
- 077 T L Penney (Warwickshire)
- 078 P R Pollard (Nottinghamshire)
- 079 P J Pritchard (Essex)
- 080 M R Pritchard (Middlesex)
- 081 J D Ratcliffe (Warwickshire)
- 082 R B Richardson (Yorkshire)
- 083 M E Robinson (Essex)
- 084 P E Robinson (Gloucestershire)
- 085 R T Robinson (Nottinghamshire)
- 086 A S Rollins (Derbyshire)
- 087 M A Ross (Middlesex)
- 088 A C Seymour (Worcestershire)
- 089 N Shah (Essex)
- 090 B F Smith (Leicestershire)
- 091 R Smith (Durham)
- 092 R A Smith (Hampshire)
- 093 N J Speak (Lancashire)
- 094 A W Smith (Surrey)
- 095 M P Smith (Sussex)
- 096 M P Smith (Sussex)
- 097 A J STEWART (Surrey)
- 098 N R Taylor (Kent)
- 099 V P Taylor (Lancashire)
- 100 G P Thorpe (Surrey)
- 101 S P Titchard (Lancashire)
- 102 M E Trescothick (Somerset)
- 103 G Trescothick (Somerset)
- 104 M P Vaughan (Yorkshire)
- 105 D M Ward (Surrey)
- 106 R Ward (Kent)
- 107 R J Warren (Northamptonshire)
- 108 A P Wells (Sussex)
- 109 C M Wells (Derbyshire)
- 110 P C Weston (Worcestershire)
- 111 J J Whistler (Lancashire)
- 112 M G N Windows (Gloucestershire)
- 113 A J Wright (Gloucestershire)

## Wicketkeepers (157-176)

Pick one player and a reserve from this category

- 157 A N Ayrnes (Hampshire)
- 158 R J Baker (Yorkshire)
- 159 K R Brown (Middlesex)
- 160 N D Burns (Somerset)
- 161 N N French (Nottinghamshire)
- 162 M A Garmham (Essex)
- 163 W K Hogg (Lancashire)
- 164 G J Kenney (Surrey)
- 165 K M Kirtley (Derbyshire)
- 166 A K March (Kent)
- 167 C P Metson (Gloucestershire)
- 168 P Moore (Sussex)
- 169 P Noun (Lancashire)
- 170 K J Piper (Warwickshire)
- 171 S J Rhodes (Worcestershire)
- 172 R J Rolins (Gloucestershire)
- 173 R C Ross (Gloucestershire)
- 174 C W Scott (Durham)
- 175 C W Scott (Durham)
- 176 R J Turner (Somerset)

## Bowlers (177-269)

Pick four players and a reserve from this category

- 177 J A Alford (Northamptonshire)
- 178 C E L Ambrose (Northamptonshire)
- 179 S W Andrews (Essex)
- 180 M A Babington (Gloucestershire)
- 181 M C J Ball (Gloucestershire)
- 182 S R Barwick (Kent)
- 183 S R Barwick (Kent)
- 184 S Bastien (Gloucestershire)
- 185 J D Batty (Yorkshire)
- 186 J E Bennett (Durham)
- 187 W K M Benjamin (Hampshire)
- 188 P J Berry (Durham)
- 189 P J Bisset (Surrey)
- 190 P J Bishop (Derbyshire)
- 191 J Biting (Surrey)
- 192 M Broadhurst (Yorkshire)
- 193 J E Brown (Durham)
- 194 M A Butcher (Surrey)
- 195 A R Caddick (Somerset)
- 196 J J Chis (Essex)
- 197 A J Connor (Hampshire)
- 198 N G B Cook (Northamptonshire)
- 199 K E Cooper (Gloucestershire)
- 200 A C Cottam (Northamptonshire)
- 201 N G Cowans (Hampshire)
- 202 R P Davis (Warwickshire)
- 203 M A Easman (Kent)
- 204 R M Eason (Kent)
- 205 M G Field-Buss (Nottinghamshire)
- 206 D J Flint (Hampshire)
- 207 M J Foster (Yorkshire)
- 208 A R C Fraser (Durham)
- 209 O D Gibson (Gloucestershire)
- 210 E S H Gidkins (Sussex)
- 211 D Gough (Yorkshire)
- 212 A G Gower (Durham)
- 213 F A Griffith (Derbyshire)
- 214 D W Headley (Kent)
- 215 E S H Hemmings (Sussex)
- 216 P J Hogg (Kent)
- 217 M C Ikin (Essex)
- 218 P W Jarvis (Sussex)
- 219 M Jean-Jacques (Hampshire)
- 220 R J Johnson (Middlesex)
- 221 M S Kasprowski (Essex)
- 222 N M Kendrick (Surrey)
- 223 D R Law (Surrey)
- 224 M J McCague (Kent)
- 225 D E Malcolm (Derbyshire)
- 226 N A Malender (Somerset)
- 227 P J Martin (Lancashire)
- 228 R J May (Hampshire)
- 229 O H Mortensen (Derbyshire)
- 230 A D Mubally (Gloucestershire)
- 231 A Murtton (Warwickshire)
- 232 A J Murphy (Surrey)
- 233 J A Nash (Sussex)
- 234 G J Parsons (Leicestershire)
- 235 M M Patel (Kent)
- 236 A P Pearson (Essex)
- 237 A L Pennington (Northamptonshire)
- 238 D B Pennington (Northamptonshire)
- 239 P J Pickett (Nottinghamshire)
- 240 A C S Pigott (Surrey)
- 241 A R K Pison (Leicestershire)
- 242 N V Radford (Worcestershire)
- 243 A R Roberts (Northamptonshire)
- 244 M A Robinson (Yorkshire)
- 245 J D K Salisbury (Middlesex)
- 246 K J Shine (Middlesex)
- 247 R W Sladdin (Derbyshire)
- 248 G C Small (Warwickshire)
- 249 S D Spencer (Kent)
- 250 R Stamp (Yorkshire)
- 251 P M Such (Essex)
- 252 P J Taylor (Northamptonshire)
- 253 S D Thomas (all-rounders)
- 254 M J Thurstfield (Hampshire)
- 255 T D Topley (Essex)
- 256 H R J Trump (Somerset)
- 257 P R Tufnell (all-rounders)
- 258 S D Udal (Hampshire)
- 259 M J Vandeuren (all-rounders)
- 260 A Ven Troost (Somerset)
- 261 C A Walsh (all-rounders)
- 262 Wagar Younis (Surrey)
- 263 A E Warner (Derbyshire)
- 264 S J Walton (Gloucestershire)
- 265 N F Williams (Middlesex)
- 266 J Wood (Durham)
- 267 G Yates (Lancashire)

## All-rounders (114-156)

Pick one player and a reserve from this category

- 114 M W Alleyne (Gloucestershire)
- 115 D Austin (Lancashire)
- 116 P BAINBRIDGE (Durham)
- 117 D J Cople (Northamptonshire)
- 118 G Chappe (Lancashire)
- 119 D G Cook (Derbyshire)
- 120 R B C Cork (Gloucestershire)
- 121 A C Curran (Durham)
- 122 K M Curran (Northamptonshire)
- 123 A Dale (Gloucestershire)
- 124 P J Davies (Derbyshire)
- 125 E Embury (Middlesex)
- 126 K P Evans (all-rounders)
- 127 M A Fetham (Middlesex)
- 128 M P Fleming (Kent)
- 129 P J Hartley (Yorkshire)
- 130 G R Haynes (Worcestershire)
- 131 G A Hick (Worcestershire)
- 132 C L Hooper (all-rounders)
- 133 R K Ilwington (Worcestershire)
- 134 K D James (Hampshire)
- 135 S R Lampitt (Worcestershire)

## CAPTAINS

- 116 P BAINBRIDGE (all-rounders)
- 121 A C Curran (all-rounders)
- 209 O D Gibson (bowler)
- 041 D L Haynes (batsman)
- 132 C L Hooper (all-rounders)
- 021 M S Kasprowski (bowler)
- 069 T M Moody (batsman)
- 139 Murrells (all-rounders)
- 142 M Pritchard (all-rounders)
- 082 R B Richardson (all-rounders)
- 145 P V Simmons (all-rounders)
- 142 M Pritchard (all-rounders)
- 263 C A Walsh (bowler, captain)
- 264 Wagar Younis (bowler)
- 152 W A Dassar (all-rounders)

## Rising stars

- 001 C J Adams (batsman)
- 185 J D Batty (bowler)
- 115 G Chappe (all-rounders)
- 024 J A Daley (batsman)
- 025 W A Dassar (batsman)

## Overseas players

- 002 J C Adams (batsman)
- 178 C E L Ambrose (bowler)

## PICK ONE FROM EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES

- 187 W K M Benjamin (bowler)
- 190 R J Bishop (bowler)
- 121 A C Curran (all-rounders)
- 209 O D Gibson (bowler)
- 041 D L Haynes (batsman)
- 132 C L Hooper (all-rounders)
- 021 M S Kasprowski (bowler)
- 069 T M Moody (batsman)
- 139 Murrells (all-rounders)
- 142 M Pritchard (all-rounders)
- 082 R B Richardson (all-rounders)
- 145 P V Simmons (all-rounders)
- 142 M Pritchard (all-rounders)
- 263 C A Walsh (bowler, captain)
- 264 Wagar Younis (bowler)
- 152 W A Dassar (all-rounders)
- 002 J C Adams (batsman)
- 185 J D Batty (bowler)
- 115 G Chappe (all-rounders)
- 024 J A Daley (batsman)
- 025 W A Dassar (batsman)

## WORLD WATCHING

Answers from page 48

## BANGALORE TORPEDO

(a) A tube containing explosive used by troops for blowing up wire entanglements, a toponym from Bangalore, the south Indian city. The Bangalore Torpedo, first used by an inventive RE officer at Bangalore, consists of sectional tubes, each packed with explosive, having a pointed nose and a hollow cone at the base, into which fits the nose of the next section.

## ZAREBA

(a) In the Sudan and adjacent parts of Africa, a fence or enclosure, usually constructed of thorn-bushes, for defence against the attacks of enemies or wild beasts, a fenced or fortified camp, from the Arabic zariba, a camp or enclosure for cattle. *The Times*, 1884: "The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) advanced this morning to Baker Pasha's zareba." Up the Watch, and watch out for prickles.

## HOBBLER

(b) A retainer bound to maintain a hobby for military service, a soldier who rode a hobby, a light horseman, from hobby a small or middle-sized horse. *ME hobyn, hoby, etymology lost in the miasma of time*: "The Irish armies consisted of Hobblers which were their horse, and Kearnes which were their foot."

## RAVELIN

(a) In fortification, an outwork consisting of two faces which form a salient angle, constructed between the main ditch and in front of the curtain, from the Italian ravello (fortification), of unknown origin. *Sterne, Tristram Shandy*, 1759: "Common men confound the ravelin and the half-moon together, — tho' they are very different things."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxd7? Qxd7 2 Rxd8 Qxd8 (otherwise 3 Rf8 mate) 3 Rxd8 with an extra piece.

## Overseas players could be best choice

FIRST CLASS XI COMMENTARY BY SIMON WILDE

WHOEVER you choose as the overseas player in your First Class XI team, he should be good for a healthy number of points. Most foreign players are signed by counties specifically because they are of proven quality and reliable performers, but this does not mean that there are not some shrewd decisions to be made. It may mean capitalising on your overseas player's talents and choosing him even though he also falls into the valuable all-rounder category. Anyone who nominates Cummins, Hooper, Mustaq Ahmad, Prabhakar, Simmons, Stephenson or Wasim Akram will experience this dilemma.

Were the game being played last season, it would have been a pity to miss out on Mustaq's 85 wickets, his 498 runs, and his unrivalled

2,198 points. Mustaq would be a good bet again this summer were it not for the fact that Pakistan presumably will take him out of county cricket from the third week of July until the end of August for their tour of Sri Lanka.

The same argument will also call away Wasim Akram and Wagar Younis, which severely reduces the likelihood of either of them winning the overseas nomination. The prior claims of international cricket will also delay the return of several West Indians involved in the Test series with England — 12 of the 18 counties have engaged players from the Caribbean — but none will miss more than one match and all will be on call for the opening round of championship ties on April 28.

If you are looking elsewhere for your all-rounder, the overseas category also offers four batsmen and seven bowlers. Jimmy Adams, Haynes, Moody and Richardson all have reason enough to score heavily but many will want to take the opportunity



Mushtaq: unrivalled

to include a proven wicket-taker, of whom there are precious few among home ranks.

After their heavy winter schedules, there may be reservations over the stamina of Ambrose, Winston Benjamin and Walsh, and Walsh creates a further problem in that he would also count as the team's captain, thus excluding the possibility of selecting players such as Gibson or Caddick.

Otis Gibson, of Gloucestershire, and Mark Kasprowski, of Essex, will both be in their first seasons of county cricket and will perhaps have too much to learn. If Ian Bishop gets through his regime of exercises and reports himself fit from his second stress fracture by March 28, as expected, he could be worth backing.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Only applications made through *The Times* First Class XI telephone line or on the official entry form will be accepted and must be received by the closing date.
2. They must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 13, 1994. There is no limit to the number of telephone applications any person or household may make. The 24-hour lines are open now.
3. Only players published in our *The Times* First Class XI list will be accepted into our First Class XI competition. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into. Entries lost or found to be indecipherable will be void.
4. Entries must consist of 15 players (11 first choice and four reserves) from the published list and must include one captain, one overseas player and one rising star as categorised in the list of *The Times* First Class XI competition. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into. Entries lost or found to be indecipherable will be void.
5. The *Times* independent panel of experts will provide updated records of each player's performance on a regular basis.
6. Fraudulent or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.
7. The telephone entry method is only open to readers over the age of 18.
8. The first prize will go to the team with the highest total score. If there is more than one team with the same total of points, the winner will be decided by tie-break. We will investigate complaints but our decision is final and we will not enter into correspondence regarding the competition.
9. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to *The Times* First Class XI form part of the terms and conditions for participation.
10. Calls charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at other times. From March 31 calls will be charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at other times.
11. Calls should take approximately six minutes.
12. The competition is not open to employees of News International or their agents.



















## ATHLETICS 42

GRANT'S CONFIDENCE  
SOARING FOR CLUBS  
MEETING IN MAY

## SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 15 1994

## RACING 44-45

FORTUNE AND FAME  
FACES LAST-MINUTE  
FITNESS TEST

# Graham lifted by England's example

By Keith Pike

THE euphoria that greeted England's performance last Wednesday was not confined to Wembley, it seems, and the significance of Terry Venables' first-night victory has not been lost on one Scotsman in particular.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, will happily forgo Mexican waves at Highbury tonight provided Arsenal can overcome Torino and claim a place in the semi-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup. But while yesterday he was extolling the virtues of patience and a positive attitude, Graham also believes the style of that victory over Denmark could prove a watershed in English football at club as well as international level.

"England's performance has given everybody a great boost," Graham said. "We don't give enough credit to English players, and what happened at Wembley showed that English players can do it."

By that he meant combine the traditional virtues of the English game — passion, strength and fortitude — with

men, let alone universally admired, for their achievements clearly still rankles with Graham.

"It is history — we were very unpopular in the 1930s when we won five championships and two FA Cups, and we are still unpopular," he said. "It doesn't bother me. I think we are well respected within the game, maybe not by the media, but that is more important than the media's respect."

After the first leg, he said, Arsenal got better write-ups in the Italian press than they did in this country. But while he denied that he would be using a perceived "anti-Arsenal" bias to motivate his team, he trusts that, for once, the country will be behind him tonight.

"We are representing England as well as Arsenal, and the better we do, the more we can improve everybody else's chances of qualifying for Europe [by securing extra places for English clubs]."

With every ticket sold and the match being televised live, Arsenal have the ideal stage to improve their reputation. Yet Graham did not need reminding that, two years ago in the second round of the European Cup, they fluffed a similar opportunity. Having drawn 1-1 in Portugal, they went out to Benfica after extra time at Highbury. The lessons, Graham said, have been learnt.

"We realise the Italians will be just as formidable at Highbury as they were in Turin. We are expecting Torino to come and defend in depth and try to hit us on the break, but we have got the best defensive record in the league," Graham said.

Graham would not reveal his squad for the match, let alone his team, and nobody can criticise him for wanting to keep the Italians guessing. It is inconceivable, though, that Wright, omitted from a sterile first leg, will not start, and that Arsenal will not revert to a 4-4-2 formation, with Smith favourite to partner Wright in attack. Davis, Merson and, probably, Jensen, are also likely to be recalled after missing the 5-1 Premiership victory over Ipswich Town at Portman Road.

"We could qualify again for Europe by finishing third in the league if Manchester United do the double, but realistically this represents our last chance," Graham said. "With the likes of Paris Saint-Germain, Ajax, Benfica and Parma still involved, it is undoubtedly the hardest of the three European competitions to win this season."

Andrea Silenzi, who scored both goals as Torino beat Cagliari 2-1 in the Italian league on Sunday, will again pose the most obvious threat to Adams and Co. and Enrico Annoni is thought likely to try to shake Wright as the defender returns from injury.

Overseas football, page 44

## Heineken limps into Punta del Este



Heineken, the all-woman crew, finished in seventh place yesterday in Punta del Este, Uruguay, but needs some urgent repairs before it can continue. Photograph: Steve Munday/Allsport

## Intrum crew confident of victory

Lawrie Smith assesses changes  
his crew must make to overhaul  
their rivals in the final two legs

Fourteen hours 11 minutes, that is the margin Intrum Justitia has to make up on Tokio, skippered by Chris Dickson, on the remaining two legs back to Southampton if we are to win the Whitbread Round the World Race. Having beaten the New Zealand boat on two of the last three stages, we know it is possible.

Our goal now must be to take another five to six hours out of them on the next 5,475 mile stage to Fort Lauderdale starting on April 2, to leave us with everything to play for on the final transatlantic dash back to England. The improvements made to the boat since we set out into the Southern Ocean from Punta del Este last November have led the boys to dub her 'The Silver Bullet'.

Changes, not least to the sails, made us the fastest boat around Antarctica. These modifications, together with the very positive attitude on board, gave Intrum a valu-

able performance edge over Tokio in the strong running and reaching conditions of the Southern Ocean.

Our strengths lie with the depth of steering talent and dedication to eat and sleep on the weather rail for days on end when beating to windward, instead of sheltering below decks when off watch. Having the whole crew up on deck adds a tenth of a knot to speed and the same can be gained again from continually trimming sails. That is equivalent to an additional five miles a day, a gain of 600 miles over the whole race.

We have worked hard too, to minimise weight on board. We take only the bare necessities on board and even fuel is carefully calculated. When we finished here on Sunday, our

engine coughed its last fuel as soon as we had dropped Intrum's sails. We had to get a tug to tow us to the pontoon.

Now we must concentrate on matching Tokio's light air speed for this next Caribbean leg. We began sail testing yesterday, trying a new main-sail, and will be checking a fresh inventory of improved masthead spinnaker designs today.

I have yet to decide whether to continue with our 12-strong crew or reduce Intrum's number to ten. In the last race, four years ago, we tackled only once during this next warm-weather leg and rarely had to reef the sails, so crew work was minimal and tactics all important.

With food and clothing to consider, two people repre-

sent more than 400kg of weight on board which would be a significant saving, but I have to balance that against changing a winning crew and the extra hands required to make the most out of these masthead spinnakers which were banned on the Southern Ocean legs. When you are looking to make up 14 hours, every little thing counts — even down to the last thimbleful of fuel.

RESULTS: Fourth leg (Auckland to Punta del Este). Boat class: 1. New Zealand Endeavour (NZ), 2. Intrum Justitia (GB), 3. La Poste (F), 4. Galleon (USA), 5. Whistler (USA), 6. Intrum Justitia (GB), 7. La Poste (F), 8. Galleon (USA), 9. Whistler (USA), 10. Intrum Justitia (GB), 11. La Poste (F), 12. Galleon (USA), 13. Whistler (USA), 14. Intrum Justitia (GB), 15. La Poste (F), 16. Galleon (USA), 17. Whistler (USA), 18. Intrum Justitia (GB), 19. La Poste (F), 20. Galleon (USA), 21. Whistler (USA), 22. Intrum Justitia (GB), 23. La Poste (F), 24. Galleon (USA), 25. Whistler (USA), 26. Intrum Justitia (GB), 27. La Poste (F), 28. Galleon (USA), 29. Whistler (USA), 30. Intrum Justitia (GB), 31. La Poste (F), 32. Galleon (USA), 33. Whistler (USA), 34. Intrum Justitia (GB), 35. La Poste (F), 36. Galleon (USA), 37. Whistler (USA), 38. Intrum Justitia (GB), 39. La Poste (F), 40. Galleon (USA), 41. Whistler (USA), 42. Intrum Justitia (GB), 43. La Poste (F), 44. Galleon (USA), 45. 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Whistler (USA), 186. Intrum Justitia (GB), 187. La Poste (F), 188. Galleon (USA), 189. Whistler (USA), 190. Intrum Justitia (GB), 191. La Poste (F), 192. Galleon (USA), 193. Whistler (USA), 194. Intrum Justitia (GB), 195. La Poste (F), 196. Galleon (USA), 197. Whistler (USA), 198. Intrum Justitia (GB), 199. La Poste (F), 200. Galleon (USA), 201. Whistler (USA), 202. Intrum Justitia (GB), 203. La Poste (F), 204. Galleon (USA), 205. Whistler (USA), 206. Intrum Justitia (GB), 207. La Poste (F), 208. Galleon (USA), 209. Whistler (USA), 210. Intrum Justitia (GB), 211. La Poste (F), 212. Galleon (USA), 213. Whistler (USA), 214. Intrum Justitia (GB), 215. La Poste (F), 216. Galleon (USA), 217. Whistler (USA), 218. Intrum Justitia (GB), 219. La Poste (F), 220. Galleon (USA), 221. Whistler (USA), 222. Intrum Justitia (GB), 223. La Poste (F), 224. Galleon (USA), 225. Whistler (USA), 226. Intrum Justitia (GB), 227. La Poste (F), 228. Galleon (USA), 229. Whistler (USA), 230. 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